

# **PACIFIC SEABIRDS**



**A Publication of the Pacific Seabird Group**

**Volume 40, Number 1**

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# PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

Dedicated to the Study and Conservation of Pacific Seabirds  
and Their Environment

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) was formed in 1972 due to the need for better communication among Pacific seabird researchers. PSG provides a forum for the research activities of its members, promotes the conservation of seabirds, and informs members and the public of issues relating to Pacific Ocean seabirds and their environment. PSG members include research scientists, conservation professionals, and members of the public from all parts of the Pacific Ocean. The group also welcomes seabird professionals and enthusiasts in other parts of the world. PSG holds annual meetings at which scientific papers and symposia are presented; abstracts for meetings are published on our web site. The group is active in promoting conservation of seabirds, include seabird/fisheries interactions, monitoring of seabird populations, seabird restoration following oil spills, establishment of seabird sanctuaries, and endangered species. Policy statements are issued on conservation issues of critical importance. PSG's journals are *Pacific Seabirds* (formerly the *PSG Bulletin*) and *Marine Ornithology*. Other publications include symposium volumes and technical reports; these are listed near the back of this issue. PSG is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ornithological Council, and the American Bird Conservancy. Annual dues for membership are \$40 (individual and family); \$30 (student, undergraduate and graduate); and \$1200 (Life Membership, payable in five installments). Dues are payable to the Treasurer; see the PSG web site, or the Membership Order Form next to inside back cover.

## World Wide Web Site

<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org>

## Donations

The Pacific Seabird Group is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. Contributions to the Pacific Seabird Group are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed US law (IRS Section 501(c)(3)).

## *Pacific Seabirds*

This journal publishes short peer-reviewed articles, reports of ongoing work, conservation news, and other items of importance to conservation of seabirds in the Pacific Ocean. The journal is published twice a year in spring and fall. Materials should be submitted to the Editor, except that conservation-related material should be submitted to the Associate Editor for Conservation. Information for contributors to *Pacific Seabirds* is published in each Fall issue and is on PSG's web site. Editorial policies accord with those of PSG's Executive Council; in other matters the journal aims for an unbiased point of view. Back issues of the *PSG Bulletin* and *Pacific Seabirds* are posted on the group's web site or may be ordered from the treasurer (see Membership/Order Form next to inside back cover for details). Submission deadlines are 20 March for the spring issue and 1 October for the fall issue; manuscripts may be submitted at any time.

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## *Marine Ornithology*

*Marine Ornithology* presents peer-reviewed contributions concerning international seabird science and conservation. The journal is published two times a year. It is available on its web site ([www.marineornithology.org](http://www.marineornithology.org)) or by subscription. The journal is supported by a partnership of global seabird societies, including the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), African Seabird Group, Australasian Seabird Group, the Seabird Group (UK), Dutch Seabird Group, and Japan Seabird Group. For further information see [www.marineornithology.org](http://www.marineornithology.org)

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# EDITOR'S CORNER

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This year is the 40th anniversary of the Pacific Seabird Group's Annual Meeting, and of *Pacific Seabirds*. PSG was formed in 1972 by a small group of wildly enthusiastic, mostly young seabird biologists, just when seabirds were becoming a recognized specialty. Many of the founders were from California, although a few eminent biologists joined them from faraway places like Japan and the United Kingdom. The new group's purposes were the same then as now—to help seabirders communicate with each other, encourage good research, advocate for their conservation, and tell the public that seabirds and their environment are important. They even polled over 140 prospective members about their priorities among 13 seabird issues..

PSG has grown and changed. Our goals have rearranged themselves over the past 40 years, as we've made great progress on some early priorities (such as locating seabird colonies), and as new problems have arisen (such as impacts of logging and wind power). We have introduced seabird conservation into the plans of many government agencies and private developers; and we're known for supporting our positions with good science. Among our changes, we have increased our relationships with scientists and conservationists in other regions of the world—South America, eastern Asia, oceanic islands, the eastern Indian Ocean. Another difference from 40 years ago is that we're able to offer modest grants to these PSGers for conservation-related research and education, as well as partial support for travel to PSG meetings for students and for non-US, non-Canadian scientists.

PSG is adapting now to issues raised by our very growth and success. This issue of *Pacific Seabirds* describes several recent changes in our membership procedures and accounting methods. Among the reasons for these changes are:

- PSG has grown over the years, so we need to keep track of more members and money.
- Our Annual Meetings are correspondingly larger and cost more.
- The world has changed since we adopted our most recent methods (maybe when desktop computers came into common use?).
- We have taken on more responsibilities, such as a second journal (*Marine Ornithology*, in cooperation with other societies), small grants to colleagues in developing countries, and most recently, handling funds for the first World Seabird Conference.
- The Treasurer had become increasingly overworked; it seemed a wonder that anyone still wanted the job.

In light of all this, EXCO decided to arrange for PSG's first full audit. The auditors concluded that our books add up just fine. However, they recommended a number of changes to reduce the treasurer's workload and to tighten up our accounting. Some of the improvements were in the works anyway. Members were just asked to vote on several Bylaws amendments to accomplish these changes.

You can read about these issues in "How PSG Runs" and "PSG News." Some innovations affect all members directly—such as the new procedures for renewing your membership (which seem to be popular). Other changes may seem like dry accounting details, but they are important for the running of your PSG.

A related concern of EXCO has been its responsibilities as a Board of Directors. A workshop for EXCO in board roles was held immediately before the Portland meeting. The training is described in "How PSG Runs." A companion piece explains the fiscal responsibilities of EXCO members. A video of the training session will be available to future candidates for EXCO.

I would like to mention one more section in this issue: the annual reports of officers, committees, and others to EXCO. These short reports are presented to EXCO at each Annual Meeting. A number of these reports contain a lot of interesting information on field work and results. Check them out!

PSG has been a significant force in research and conservation. The group has survived a few setbacks over the years, and we're still healthy. We don't plan to rest on our laurels, though. New conservation threats seem to appear every year—sometimes every month.

We need to stay adaptable. Change seems to be in the air just now at PSG, and much of this is good, maybe even overdue. We should apply a bit of caution here, though, and resist the temptation of "change for the sake of change"; in some respects, continuity is also beneficial to an organization. I think we're forging a stronger PSG, ready to face the challenges of the next 40 years.

—Vivian Mendenhall



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Pacific Seabird Group occasionally honors major contributors to seabird science and conservation with Lifetime Achievement or Special Achievement awards. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose outstanding work for seabirds has influenced the course of research, conservation, and/or education throughout the Pacific or the world. The following two articles also are tributes to the life of a member and friend whom we recently lost.

## MALCOLM C. COULTER

Craig S. Harrison, Mark J. Rauzon, and Robert W. Risebrough

*It's not what individuals can do but what we can all do together!*  
—Malcolm's Last Testament, December 2012

At the Pacific Seabird Group's Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, the group's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented posthumously to long-time member Dr. Malcolm C. Coulter, who passed away on January 2, 2013. The award was given in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the research and conservation of seabirds and waterbirds. Although the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented on February 23, 2013, shortly after Malcolm passed away, he was informed of this recognition months earlier.

Malcolm was born in 1947 and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, where he developed his ornithological bent and conservation ethic. His family also had a New Hampshire summer home, where the love of small animals kept him in the woods. He ultimately studied birds on four continents, starting with sparrows, and, in turn, studied seabirds, and then storks, ibis and spoonbills.

Malcolm earned his biology degree from Stanford University, where he conducted research under Paul Ehrlich and Peter Raven on *Tribolium* beetles and meadowlarks (*Sturnella* spp). He received his Master's of Science in Zoology at Oxford University and then went on to the University of Pennsylvania for his PhD; both dissertations focused on the breeding biology and behavior of Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*) on the Farallon Islands.

Malcolm began working with Point Reyes Bird Observatory in 1967, shortly after it was founded, and helped establish the Farallon Biological Station. He began a 40-year vegetation monitoring study of Southeast Farallon Island and conducted numerous bird and marine mammal surveys. He documented the impacts of the European hare (*Lepus europaeus*) to native vegetation on the Farallons and the resulting population declines of birds.

Malcolm was present on the Farallon Islands when the first six young northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) arrived and the population began to recover from its historic population crash.

He also had the honor of being the first human bitten by a northern elephant seal "on land" and sported a lifelong scar as a reminder.

Starting in 1969, Malcolm worked with Dr. Robert Risebrough, Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, conducting analyses of pesticides on a global scale and their impacts to breeding birds. In the 1970s, he also worked in Antarctica at Palmer and Hallet Stations, where he studied the breeding biology of Adelie Penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), Snow Petrels (*Pagodroma nivea*), and skuas (*Catharacta* spp).



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Malcolm returned to warmer climes and went to the Galápagos Islands, where he worked to reverse the decline of Galápagos Petrels (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) due to predation by feral animals. From 1984 through 1992 he worked on the Wood Stork [*Mycteria americana*] Project for the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. He was appointed as a co-chair for the IUCN Stork, Ibis, and Spoonbill [Ciconiidae, Threskiornithidae] Specialist Group and served in that position from 1992 through 2013. His work with these waterbirds included:

- African/Eurasian Action Plan for storks, ibises, and spoonbills for the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn 1979)
- Conservation of Oriental Crested Ibis, Ministry of Forestry, Shaanxi Province, China
- Action Plan for Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*) of Taiwan
- Conservation of endangered storks in India
- Co-sponsor, international symposium on importance of scale to conservation and management of colonial waterbirds
- Saving Black-faced Spoonbills

From 1992 through 2012, Malcolm helped defeat Bin-nan Industrial Complex in Taiwan. The proposed complex

would have consisted of a petrochemical plant and a steel mill in the Chi-gu wetlands, one of the last large lagoons on the west coast of Taiwan. In addition to threatening a productive fishery that employs 16,000 people, the wetland is also the wintering habitat for half of the world's population of the endangered Black-faced Spoonbill. Malcolm showed the detrimental effects that the complex would have on the bird's main wintering habitat, and he worked with planners for a decade to expand habitat throughout the bird's flyway. His actions were directly responsible for the spoonbill population's ten-fold expansion (from 288 to 2,700 birds in 2012)

In April 2005, Malcolm attended the De-Militarized Zone workshop China to develop a conservation project for cranes (Gruidae) in North Korea, as well as conservation in Korean demilitarized zone. The workshop was attended by biologists from North Korea, South Korea, Japan, and China. At the International Crane Meeting in South Korea during October 2007, Malcolm worked with the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement; he was victorious in having Suncheon Bay designated a Ramsar Site for the conservation of the Hooded Crane (*Grus monacha*), Black-faced Spoonbill, and Crested Ibis (*Nipponia nippon*).



Mark Rauzon treating the audience at the awards ceremony to a recording of Malcolm's voice, telling a story and chuckling

During his life, Malcolm published more than 60 scientific papers on birds and several concerning island flora. Malcolm dedicated his career to bringing biologists together to conserve birds and has been recognized numerous times for his achievements, including:

- Elective member of AOU (1987)
- Special Achievement Award (PSG, 2000)
- Korean Federation for Environmental Movements (2006)
- Scientist of the Decade (SAVE International, 2007)
- Eugene Eisenman Award (Linnean Society of New York, 2008)
- PRBO Conservation Award (2012)

Malcolm's service to PSG was invaluable for international conservation. His work included Editor, *Pacific Seabird Bulletin* (1985-1991), PSG Chair (1991), Endowment Fund Trustee (1996-2013), and PSG delegate to the International Council for Bird Preservation and the America Bird Conservancy (1990-2010).

Malcolm was a member of PSG's Craig S. Harrison Conservation Small Grants Committee (2007-2013). He established the Corresponding Membership in 1995, and he served on the Corresponding Members Committee until 2013, most of that time as its chair. Malcolm recognized that people in developing countries who have interests in seabird research or management may not be able to afford membership dues,



Craig Harrison presenting award



Robert Risebrough. By Marina Harrison

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

or may have little or no institutional support for seabird conservation. The Corresponding Members Committee underwrites up to 16 memberships in PSG, primarily to foster involvement of seabird researchers and conservationists in developing countries. In return, Corresponding Members are asked to contribute a short article for *Pacific Seabirds* every few years. The Small Grants Committee offers modest grants for conservation-related seabird research or

outreach in developing countries around the Pacific.

Malcolm was full of love for the natural world, and affection for his friends, with whom he could share a laugh at the absurdity of life. In his “Last Testament” he wrote that he was blessed with the most wonderful life, the greatest and most caring friends, and an opportunity to work around the world—and he hoped he had made some difference in conservation and to people.

PSG acknowledges that Malcolm’s conservation efforts were unparalleled, and that he will continue to make a difference in the lives of many people and the birds he loved. The Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos National Park has graciously accepted the plaque that accompanied Malcolm’s award and will display it to inspire others to conserve seabirds.

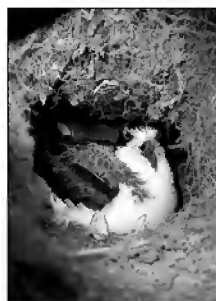
A video of the Lifetime Award Celebration can be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRT2UpIJ2M>

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## AN ALBUM FOR MALCOLM



At Cassin’s Auklet burrow on Farallones, 1968.  
(Robert Risebrough)



Galapagos Petrel in burrow  
(above) and chick (right).  
(Felipe Cruz)



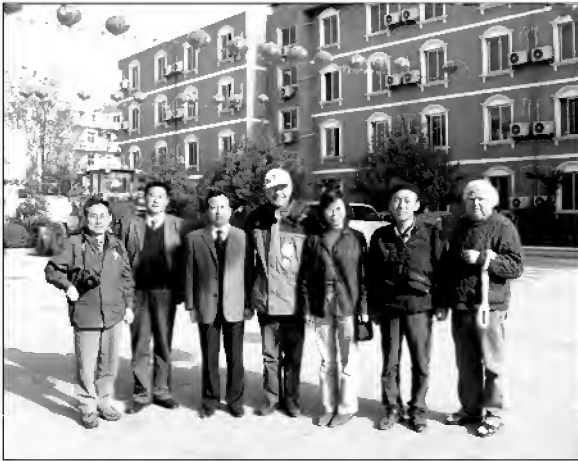
Malcolm in his forties. (Jean Coulter Brown; also photo at right)



Malcolm (right) on top of Mt. Chocorua, New Hampshire.  
Special friend White Dog is in the foreground.



## ALBUM FOR MALCOLM



Malcolm in  
China, 2005



Black-faced Spoonbill, whose habitats and populations  
Malcolm saved



Malcolm threw a party for friends at his home in Chocorua  
in September 2011. Front: Marsha Sitnik, Marina Har-  
rison; second row: Suzanne and Mark Rauzon; top row:  
Malcolm, Craig Harrison



A toast to friends and conser-  
vation. (Marina Harrison; also  
photo below)



Malcolm, Craig Harrison

# IN MEMORIUM

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Felipe Cruz's tribute to Malcolm Coulter was delivered at a gathering in the Galapagos that was timed for the same day as PSG's Lifetime Achievement Award ceremony. Malcolm's award plaque will be exhibited permanently at the Charles Darwin Research Station, Galapagos National Park, Isla Santa Cruz.

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## A SHORT ACCOUNT OF MALCOLM IN FLOREANA: NOT ONLY THE SCIENTIST BUT ALSO THE MAN WITH A GOLDEN HEART

Felipe Cruz

I was a young self-taught naturalist with a passion for the native and endemic birds in my little Island of Floreana in the Galápagos. I was very eager to be the field assistant to any scientist who arrived to Floreana. When I was 6-7 years old Dr. Robert Bowman used to grant me the honor to help him getting the finches into the mist net and then giving me some of the little birds to let them free. Later on I worked with several scientists and become more and more aware of my passion for nature and the problems some of the species faced.

It was 1981 and I clearly remember the party of Dr. David Duffy (Director of Charles Darwin Research Station at the time) arriving to our house looking for me since I was the "local expert" on the Floreana petrels. Malcolm was there and my first impression of him was: he's not going to be able to climb the crater walls of Cerro Pajas, the place where the largest colony survived. How wrong I was!

That first day in Floreana was a full moon night and I wanted to impress Dr. Duffy and conduct kind of a test for Dr. Coulter: I offered them a hike at night to see the petrels flying over the colony. It became an enchanted moment for all of us, seeing/feeling/ hearing the petrels in their nocturnal courtship over the colony. And I told them the story my Dad used to tell us about the first time he arrived to Floreana, according to which the whole Island was a massive colony. I believe

from that moment we all got a stronger bond which did not need to be vocalized. I become the most devoted field assistant for Dr. Coulter due to the fact that he had a natural way of being a great teacher who even got pride if the pupil took advantage of that golden opportunity.

I have to mention that perhaps the best teachings of Malcolm were done without telling you how, but making us think, and think with the scientific method above all. My first lesson was with the signs of predation on the nest. Out of a natural gift I could tell if it was a rat, cat, dog, pig, owl or lack of food. But Malcolm decided to put tiles at the entrance of many nests with black ink in order to properly record the footprint of the vermin. I believed it was a waste of time and did not know why he wanted to do that. But suddenly I started to realize that out of my arrogance in believing my eyes to be infallible, I had been doing some hasty analysis, which was not correct. Ever since then, I work hard in avoiding making the same mistake again.

Many other memories come to mind but above all, I have to mention his systematic passion to do research and at the same time, work for the conservation of the species. He had the habit of moving his hands in a rhythmic way and at the same time kind of *hum, hum, hum* in a soft way. I often asked if he was ok and he always got startled and answered me that he was just thinking. . . . It became for me

another lesson to always think first and then go over and think again! All this was done at the facility we had at the farm in the highlands of Floreana, where we managed to produce the most palatable alcoholic drink: dark (and cheap!) rum mixed with the juice of bitter oranges and some honey . . . of course there was no electricity on the Island and therefore no ice cubes! We had one of those at the end of the day and it was heaven! Then the rest of the work started . . . one to cook and the other to put into proper sheets the data gathered in the field notes; all this with the worst possible light: some wax candles!

To see Malcolm fitting in like that was a revelation which also became another lesson. No need for best facilities to do the job that needs to be done, and with joy and pride in what is being done, not for the benefit of individuals but for the elusive concept of the common good!

Malcolm's sense of humor was remarkable! He observed that at the farm, my younger brother had a soft heart for two ugly looking beasts: a young dog and a young cockerel. It was my brother's birthday and Malcolm gave him a booklet with those two characters being in a never-ending-never-won mimicked fight! It was so well done that we could not stop laughing ages later!

I could go on and on, but I have to mention his ability to build local capacity as the best strategy for conservation.

## IN MEMORIUM

He also had a great dedication to guide young students, and also a huge capacity to work with many species almost at the same time! All of that produced some of the most remarkable milestones in Galápagos and therefore Galápagos has a huge gratitude towards him.

Speaking for myself, I have to say that what I am and what I have been able to achieve in the conservation of our Islands is thanks to Malcolm, the best Teacher, Mentor, and above all, a

most wonderful Friend who will be badly missed. Somehow I believe he'll have the heart to live in our memory and thus guide us always towards doing research, and at the same time work hard for the conservation of the beloved biodiversity of our Planet.

Let's rise our glass and make a toast to Malcolm! Salud!

[Felipe Cruz is Director of Technical Assistance at the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galápagos Islands.]



Felipe Cruz with Galapagos Petrel. (Courtesy of Felipe Cruz)

# CONSERVATION REPORT

Compiled by Jo Smith

## ISLAND RESTORATIONS AND ERADICATIONS

### SOUTH GEORGIA RAT ERADICATION

The largest project in the history of eradication continues in the Subantarctic on the glacier-peaked island of South Georgia. The second phase of a 4-year project to eradicate brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) from South Georgia began in early March 2013. Led by Professor Tony Martin, University of Dundee, the first phase was completed in 2011, successfully eradicating brown rats from a small portion of the island, separated by ice from the rest of the land. The second phase includes a drop of 100 million pellets over more than half of the remaining island. The pellets will be dropped using three air ambulance helicopters and will cover every square meter in mathematical precision.

Brown rats arrived in the island in the 18th century via ships in the seal-harvesting industry. The rats threaten the seabirds, as well as endemic ground-nesting birds such as the South Georgia Pintail (*Anas georgica georgica*) and Pipit (*Anthus antarcticus*). The four-year project must be completed on time because the island's glaciers are retreating; the glaciers currently separate the various rat colonies, and if colonies combine, eradication will become more difficult.

### 10 YEARS RAT-FREE ON ANACAPA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

In mid March 2013, biologists returned to Anacapa Island to celebrate a decade of success. Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) had been eradicated from the 700-ac (238-ha) island by the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) and Island Conserva-

tion in 2001–2002, amidst controversy, lawsuits, do-gooders and naysayers. The US\$3 million for the eradication came from the 1990 settlement from an oil spill off Huntington Beach, California and was provided by the *American Trader* Trustee Council.

The project, which was managed by Island Conservation for the NPS, was the first of its kind in North America to use helicopters for scattering bait, and has become a model for island restoration and seabird recovery throughout the world. Island Conservation's Gregg Howald explained that there were many complexities to this eradication; for example, some native deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) were captured and caged in an old fuel-storage building until their release after the eradication.

Once threatened by extirpation from the island, the Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*) has returned to nest. Scripps's Murrelets are rare, and 80% of the population breeds on the Channel Islands National Park. Their hatching rate after eradication improved from 30 to 85 percent.

Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) have been observed on the island, and Ashy Storm-Petrel calls have been recorded and identified by biologists from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Other native species such as alligator lizards (*Elgaria* sp.), deer mice, and plants have rebounded.

The Trustee Council has produced a beautiful video to tell the story of this success. Please go to this YouTube link to watch the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDJgMt19GRI&feature=youtu.be>

### PALMYRA ATOLL IS RAT FREE AFTER ONE YEAR

On 28 January 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Island

Conservation, and The Nature Conservancy celebrated the one-year anniversary of a rat-free Palmyra Atoll. After seven years of planning and research, the successful eradication project took place in June 2011, with dramatic changes to the flora and fauna by the summer of 2012. Native tree seedlings have increased 130%, and arthropods have increased 367%. The population size of the Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*) has not changed, owing to stringent protective measures during the eradication. A detailed plan for keeping invasive species off the atoll is now in place for all boats and planes that travel there.

More information is in the Conservation Report for Fall 2012 (*Pacific Seabirds* 39[2]:71). Also see this link from Island Conservation for more information on the restoration and atoll: <http://www.islandconservation.org/news/article.php?id=39>

### CHINESE CRESTED TERN RESTORATION

The Chinese Crested Tern (*Sterna bergsteini*) is a very rare seabird in China; an unknown number of breeders exist on the islands of Matzu (administered by Taipei), Jiushan, and Wuzhishan (the latter two in Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China). Eight Chinese Crested Terns were seen on the Jiushan Islands in 2007, but egg poachers raided the colony and terns have not been seen nesting there again. In 2008, birds were observed on the Wuzhishan Islands, 80 km away, but nesting birds were threatened by poachers, visitors, photographers, as well as competition from Greater Crested Terns (*Thalasseus bergii*) for high-quality nest sites.

Since 2008, BirdLife International and the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society have been working with the Zhejiang



## CONSERVATION REPORT

Wild Bird Society on seabird conservation and conservation education. In early March 2013, an international workshop was held to mark the beginning of an ambitious restoration project that will develop a network of breeding sites for this critically endangered species. The USFWS has provided a small grant for this project, which is sponsored by the Japan Fund for Global Environment and Hong Kong's Ocean Park Conservation Foundation.

The restoration project will make full use of the experiences and successes of other relocation projects, including the Short-tailed Albatross (*Phoebastria albatrus*) relocation in Japan by Dr. Stephen Kress from the National Audubon Society, Oregon State University, and the Yamashina Institute of Ornithology. The Chinese Crested Tern colony restoration on the Jiushan Islands will include improving and expanding nesting habitat, audio playback systems, and tern decoys, beginning in early May 2013. A small island in the Jiushans has been chosen as the restoration site, and researchers will be present on the island 24 hours per day during the breeding season. The strategy is to attract Greater Crested Terns to nest, with Chinese Crested Terns to follow.

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### MURRELETS

#### MARBLED MURRELET CRITICAL HABITAT RULING

On 1 April 2013, a U.S. federal judge rejected a proposal by the federal government to drop nearly 4 million acres of designated critical habitat for the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*). *Pacific Seabirds* reported on this lawsuit in the Fall 2012 issue (*Pacific Seabirds* 29[2]:72), and PSG has been active on this issue for a few years. A lawsuit was filed by the American Forest Resource Council, Oregon's Douglas County, and the Carpenter's Industrial Council against the USFWS in the summer of 2012, arguing that the USFWS

had inappropriately set aside habitat for the murrelet in 1996. The Obama administration proposed to settle the lawsuit by giving up 3.7 million acres of critical habitat. Conservation groups, including the Pacific Seabird Group, opposed the USFWS proposal, citing the decline of the species and the need for habitat protections. The Hon. John H. Bates denied the consent decree and suggested that a modified proposal could be acceptable. In the coming months, USFWS will begin the process of revising murrelet critical habitat for the 3rd time.

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### RECOVERY PLANS

#### CANADIAN PROGRESS IN ALBATROSS AND SHEARWATER RECOVERY

The Canadian Short-tailed Albatross–Pink-footed Shearwater–Black-footed Albatross Recovery Team (hereafter, Team) is moving forward with its multispecies recovery strategy. The Short-tailed Albatross and Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*) were both listed by the Canadian Species at Risk Act, (SARA). It has tentatively been proposed that this recovery team be renamed the Canada Pacific Albatross and Petrel Recovery Team, since any at-risk tubenoses will become this team's responsibility as they are added to the list of species protected under SARA. Recent Team activity includes the development of a Management Plan for Black-footed Albatross (*Phoebastria nigripes*), as required under SARA. Writing of the draft management plan was led by Louise Blight (University of British Columbia, now at WWF–Canada) and co-authored by Amy Medve, Ken Morgan (Canadian Wildlife Service), Jo Smith (Birdsmith Ecological Research), Peter Hodum (Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge) and Heather Brekke. The plan was submitted in February 2012; it is in final management review prior to being finalized.

Secondly, the Team recently reviewed the draft Canadian Update Status Report on the Short-tailed Albatross, authored by Alan Burger (University of Victoria), an update that is required by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) every five years. The species is currently due to be reassessed by COSEWIC in November 2013, on the basis of this report.

Thirdly, Ken Morgan (Recovery Team Chair, Canadian Wildlife Service) is collaborating with Josh Adams (U.S. Geological Survey), David Hyrenbach (Hawaii Pacific University), Valentina Colodro (Oikonos Chile) and Recovery Team member Peter Hodum on a project to track breeding Pink-footed Shearwaters from Isla Mocha, Chile. The Canadian Wildlife Service provided seven solar-powered satellite transmitters to be deployed on adult birds just prior to fledging of their chicks. The transmitters were deployed on 3 April on Isla Mocha; the birds' tracks can be viewed via the link below. With support from local residents, the Chilean Federal Government, American Bird Conservancy, Environment Canada, and Oikonos, the project aims to build capacity, and plans to investigate threats at sea for the shearwaters in the territorial seas of at least 13 countries, including Canada.

See this link for shearwater tracking: [http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project\\_id=834](http://www.seaturtle.org/tracking/?project_id=834)

—Louise Blight

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#### REVISIONS TO THE CANADIAN MARBLED MURRELET RECOVERY STRATEGY RESTARTED

Environment Canada has restarted the process to revise the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Strategy to be in compliance with Canadian federal laws. The only recovery strategy in Canada for this species (listed as Threatened since 1990) was completed in 1994. Under the 2002 SARA, a new recovery strategy was due

## CONSERVATION REPORT

in 2007. Although the Canadian Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team produced a draft SARA-compliant recovery strategy in time for this deadline, its posting was stalled within the Canadian government. In 2013, Environment Canada reinstated the Canadian Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team, and revisions to the recovery strategy are now underway, with the aim of completing the document by the end of 2013. Additional Recovery Action Plans, which provide details on how the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Strategy will be implemented, are expected to follow.

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### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

#### ROSS SEA MPA DECISION JULY 2013

In 2011, the USA proposed to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) that all of the Ross Sea shelf and one third of its continental slope be included within a marine protected area (MPA). This was part of a CCAMLR initiative to designate several MPAs in the Southern Ocean by 2012. At the same time, New Zealand (NZ) proposed a Ross Sea MPA that included the shelf but none of the slope. NZ also tacked on the ocean around the Balleny Islands, which are located about 200 nm northwest of the Ross Sea, but have little connection to the Ross Sea, either faunistically, geologically or geographically. The NZ proposal

constitutes a total capitulation to its fishing industry, which takes about 50% of the annual catch of Antarctic toothfish (Chilean sea bass, *Dissostichus mawsoni*), mostly from the Ross Sea slope. CCAMLR instructed the two countries to come back with a joint proposal. In 2012, a joint proposal was tabled, this one representing a full capitulation on the part of the US to what NZ wanted. The reasoning for this was that, given that just one vote within CCAMLR can nix any proposal for anything, any MPA would have to be accepted by all the fishing nations which dominate CCAMLR. If NZ wouldn't accept full protection of the Ross Sea, why would any other fishing country?

In 2012, CCAMLR made no decision about any MPAs, proposals for three others having also been tabled. The problem was that all of the tabled proposals, except for that from the USA, were came from claimant states under the Antarctic Treaty, and their proposals involved huge expanses of ocean only within their respective claims (despite the fact that claims, while not renounced, had been set aside by the Antarctic Treaty). [Editor's note: There are 50 signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, including the USA; seven sovereign states have made eight territorial claims to land in the Antarctic south of 60°S.]

Viewing the Antarctic Treaty as being up for re-enactment in 2021, several non-claimant states resisted establishing MPAs because these proposals were seen as land grabs. CCAMLR intends to hold another meeting in July 2013 to try to come to agreement on MPA proposals. The Ross Sea is considered the

most pristine stretch of continental shelf ocean remaining on earth (B.S. Halpern et al., *Science* 319:948, 2008), and it has wildlife of world-class status (e.g., 38% of all Adélie Penguins *Pygoscelis adeliae*, and 25% of all Emperor Penguins, *Aptenodytes forsteri*).

—David Ainley

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### FISHERIES

#### FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN ADOPTED FOR US WEST COAST

With strong support from the conservation community, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) adopted a Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) on 9 April 2013. While the plan itself is advisory, it sets the stage for subsequent regulatory actions, such as protection of presently unmanaged forage species. The Pacific Seabird Group submitted a letter of support, which is posted on the Conservation page of the PSG website ([www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org)).

The PFMC adopted the FEP and the appendix of initiatives. The PFMC has established an ad hoc committee to implement Initiative 1, which would provide protections for forage fish that are currently not managed. More information about the FEP and the PFMC's action can be found on the PFMC's website (<http://www.pcouncil.org/>).

—Stan Stenner

# CONSERVATION REPORT SUPPLEMENT

This was prepared for the Conservation Report, but it turned out too long for that section.

## GOVERNMENT POSTPONES DRILLING IN CHUKCHI SEA UNTIL SHELL IS BETTER PREPARED

Vivian Mendenhall

The US Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, said in a press conference on 14 March 2013 that “Shell screwed up in 2012.” He went on to say that the company could resume drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas in 2014, but only if it is ready to handle arctic and subarctic conditions (Broder 2013).

Potential impacts of offshore oil and gas exploration are important issues for marine bird conservation. Adequate precautions Alaska also could influence development throughout the Arctic, as the industry moves northward. Drilling started between Greenland and Canada in 2010, and Russia has installed a platform in its arctic Pechora Sea; more expansion seems a foregone conclusion.

This article summarizes the activities and challenges of Royal Dutch Shell (Shell) during its exploration program for Alaska’s Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Most of this information comes from a March 2013 report by the US Department of Interior (DOI) (DOI 2013). Any statements that are not otherwise documented come from this report.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Numerous marine birds are found in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. Seabirds in the immediate area of Shell’s drilling operation include Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*), Northern Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*), Glaucous Gulls (*Larus hyperboreus*), Black-legged Kittiwakes (*Rissa tridactyla*), Crested and Least Auklets (*Aethia cristatella* and *A. pusilla*), Thick-billed Murres (*Uria lomvia*), and Red and Red-necked Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius* and *P. lobatus*) (Gall et al. 2012). Alaska’s northernmost colonies of cliff-nesters are just south of the lease area at Cape

Lisburne and Cape Thompson (<http://axiom.seabirds.net/portal.php>).

Nearby coastal waters and barrier islands are important for locally breeding waterfowl, seabirds, and shorebirds, and also as staging areas for populations that breed in Siberia and northern Canada. Among the coastal birds are loons (*Gavia*), all four eiders (*Somateria*, *Polysticta*), jaegers (*Stercorarius*), gulls, terns (*Sterna*), and shorebirds (Charadriidae, Scolopacidae) (Holland-Bartels and Pierce 2011). The coast and its nearshore waters are an Important Bird Area (IBA) of Global Priority (email from Alaska Audubon, 21 March 2013).

There has been relatively little research on marine ecosystems in the Alaskan Arctic (Holland-Bartels and Pierce 2011). Recent investigations, funded by Shell and other companies as well as government agencies, have included the distribution of seabirds in the drilling area (Gall et al. 2012), marine mammals, fish, and zooplankton, among other topics ([www.nprb.org](http://www.nprb.org)).

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: PERMITS, APPROVALS, EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Impacts of drilling on any marine environment can include pollution of air or water during day-to-day operations, and infrequent accidents such as oil spills or accidents with vessels. Additional threats in the Arctic (even during summer) can include severe storms, drifting ice, and equipment malfunctions due to cold temperatures.

Many approvals are needed before drilling can begin. Yearly drilling and oil-spill response plans must be approved by DOI. Spill response equipment must be at the site before oil can be reached. Shell’s equipment was to include two

special-purpose barges, one of them with an innovative dome that could seal an oil leak at the sea floor. However, technologies are not yet adequate to recover oil from the sea surface in the presence of ice (USARC and USACE 2012). Arctic conditions also necessitated an ice-management plan for detecting and responding to ice floes.

The US Coast Guard (USCG) plays a major role in response to marine accidents or pollution. USCG has no facilities near the arctic, in contrast to other coasts of the US; the nearest permanent Coast Guard station is in Kodiak, 1700 nm and a week-long cruise from the Chukchi Sea. For the past four years the USCG has been increasing its personnel and equipment in arctic Alaska during the open-water season. In summer 2012 there were 3 vessels, 4 helicopters, and other equipment in the Chukchi-Beaufort Sea area (Bryant 2012).

Shell needed more than 30 other approvals and permits from government agencies, covering issues such as threatened or endangered species, air and water quality, and certification of newly modified vessels. Many permits were obtained before the drilling season; however, some were late (see “The 2012 drilling season,” below).

### PREPARATIONS FOR DRILLING

Shell’s recent plans for the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas began with its purchase of offshore leases in 2008. Especially promising is the “Burger Prospect,” 70 miles (112 km) off northwest Alaska in 140 feet (43 m) of water.

Shell spent several years assembling more than 20 vessels for recent drilling, including two platforms, the *Noble Discoverer* and the *Kulluk*. These are



floating platforms, which are anchored in place; they may cope better with approaching sea ice than jack-up rigs with legs. Two spill response barges, the *Arctic Challenger* and the *Nanuk*, would also be on scene. Other vessels included an icebreaking tugboat, supply vessels, and tankers.

Shell originally hoped to start drilling off Alaska in summer 2010. However, after the British Petroleum Company's *Deepwater Horizon* spill in the Gulf of Mexico that spring, DOI postponed offshore drilling until procedures could be upgraded. Shell then hoped to begin in 2011 but was delayed by a court case.

## LEGAL CHALLENGES

A number of lawsuits have been filed by environmental and some Alaska Native groups against the federal government over offshore drilling in Alaska. The groups have not sued Shell Oil itself.

The suits have attempted to require better safeguards against pollution. Many environmental groups oppose drilling in Arctic waters, at least under current spill response capabilities. In contrast, most local Native groups favor responsible development, since economic opportunities are scarce; but they also want protection of the environment, on which their culture and subsistence harvests depend.

This is a brief summary of legal actions through March 2013. Lawsuits were filed in federal courts, in either Washington D.C. or Anchorage depending on details of each case. If a court decision is not mentioned, it was pending as of March 2013.

**DOI's offshore lease sale**—Law-suits complained that DOI's nationwide plan for offshore leasing in 2007-2012 did not evaluate impacts at sea. The court ordered a revised plan, which it approved. Another suit said that DOI's environmental impact statement for the Chukchi Sea lease sale had glossed over the lack of scientific information. In 2009 the court halted drilling and ordered DOI to improve the assessment. A revised assessment was accepted in 2011 and the injunction was lifted. The plaintiffs have appealed because the missing data still were not required.

## DOI's approval of Shell's plans

Several suits claimed that DOI should not have approved Shell's plans for drilling and response to oil spills, under laws that require the government to protect the environment. The court upheld the drilling plan; a decision on the spill response plan is pending.

## Air and water quality permits

Shell received its air quality permits from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the exhaust from vessel engines. In response to a suit by Native and conservation groups, EPA's appeals board modified the permits. Shell's vessels were still unable to meet those requirements, so EPA issued a waiver in September 2012 for the short remaining season.

The EPA also granted a permit for discharging water into the sea, requiring low levels of pollutants. This permit was a general one for all of Shell's operations in arctic Alaska; a lawsuit asks that a separate permit be required for each drilling operation.

**Shell versus environmental advocates**—Shell sued 14 environmental organizations during 2012 in an effort to prevent more lawsuits against their (Shell's) plans. The groups objected because they had never actually sued Shell over these issues. The court consolidated the lawsuits with various others, which are pending.

Shell also obtained an injunction in early 2012 to keep Greenpeace at least 1 km away from its drilling rigs in US waters.

## DRILLING IN 2012

Arctic offshore drilling is allowed only in the ice-free season, often from July through October. Shell originally planned to begin drilling in July; both platforms were waiting in Dutch Harbor by then, but sea ice lingered in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas until August.

The *Noble Discoverer* dragged anchor in Dutch Harbor on 14 July, drifting almost 700 yards and coming within 100 yards of grounding. Shell's investigators reported that the anchor chain had been too short and that there was no contingency

plan for a severe storm. The company subsequently upgraded procedures on the vessel. It was not damaged and departed for the Chukchi Sea on 25 August. The *Kulluk* transited to the Beaufort Sea without problems.

Part of Shell's spill-response equipment was still in preparation, and ultimately it was not ready until after the drilling season. The *Arctic Challenger* had been refitted for spill response starting in March 2012, but it did not meet certification standards until October. The new containment dome was ready for sea tests in September; it malfunctioned and was damaged by water pressure, so that it had to be redesigned and could not be certified in 2012.

At the end of August, DOI approved limited permits for Shell to drill one well each in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. In the absence of spill response equipment, the wells were required to stop before reaching the level of oil deposits.

Shell began drilling its Chukchi Sea well on 9 September. Less than a day later, drilling was stopped because the company detected the approach of a large ice floe. The *Noble Discoverer* detached from the well and moved away. Drilling resumed after two weeks. The *Noble Discoverer* finished drilling operations and began its journey south on 28 October.

DOI monitoring officials (one of whom was on a drilling rig at all times) reported that drilling was conducted cautiously and complied with DOI regulations. The only major problem experienced by Shell's fleet was that exhaust emissions violated the EPA's clean-air permit and waiver (DOI 2013:26).

## DEMobilization AND DIFFICULTIES

After operations concluded in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, most of Shell's fleet was transferred southwards without incident.

Both drilling platforms were to spend the winter in Seattle for repair and modifications. However, the *Noble Discoverer*'s propulsion system broke down in the Bering Sea; it was towed to Dutch Harbor and then to Seward. The *Kulluk* (which has no propulsion of its own) was



## CONSERVATION REPORT SUPPLEMENT

towed to Dutch Harbor without incident. However, as the vessel was being towed across the Gulf of Alaska during a severe storm in late December, the tugboat *Aikvik* lost all power, and then the towline broke. Several tugs attempted to reattach lines but could not control the *Kulluk*. The USCG lifted off the *Kulluk*'s crew by helicopter. The vessel went aground on Sitkalidik Island (near Kodiak Island) on 31 December. No oil was spilled, and the *Kulluk* was refloated a week later. Shell decided that repairs on both platforms should be done in Asia, whence they were carried on heavy lift vessels.

### ANALYSIS AND RETRENCHMENT

On 8 January 2013, Secretary of the Interior Salazar announced an expedited assessment of Shell's drilling operations in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The review was to focus especially on Shell's "challenges" with its spill-response equipment and drilling rigs (<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-salazar-launches-expedited-assessment-of-2012-arctic-operations.cfm>). Shell cooperated with DOI during its investigation (DOI 2013:3).

Also on 8 January, the USCG ordered a formal marine casualty investigation into the *Kulluk*'s grounding (which is normal procedure after a maritime accident; <http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/1676567/Coast-Guard-orders-formal-marine-casualty-investigation-of-Kulluk>).

Inspections during Shell's operations in September 2012 found that both platforms were violating EPA's air quality permits and waiver. EPA notified Shell in January 2013 that the government might undertake legal actions regarding these violations (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/airpage.nsf/Permits/chukchiap>).

Shell unilaterally announced on 27 February 2013 that it would not drill in Alaskan waters during the coming year (<http://www.shell.com/global/aboutshell/media/news-and-media-releases/2013/shell-announces-pause-in-alaska-drilling-programme.html>). On 22 March, Shell's executive vice-president for exploration in the Americas resigned (Chazan 2013).

### CONCLUSIONS

DOI's report stated that Shell's actual drilling operations in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas were conducted safely and competently, except for the problems with exhaust emissions. DOI commended Shell for its management of the drifting ice floe, and for its liaison with local communities.

However, the report stated that some of Shell's planning and preparations were inadequate. Modifications of the *Arctic Challenger* began too late, so that engineering problems delayed its certification until after the drilling season. The new spill-containment dome was not ready for testing until 11 September 2012, and it failed. DOI stated that these problems occurred because Shell started late on the projects, and because the company did not communicate well with contractors or oversee them directly. Shell's problems with its platforms, both at sea and when anchored, could have been prevented if contingency plans had existed for severe storms, and if contractors had been overseen more closely (DOI 2013:17-20, 31).

DOI concluded that Shell needs integrated plans for its arctic operations. Planning should start years ahead of actual drilling, include comprehensive risk management, allow time for unavoidable delays, and include formal risk management for unforeseen problems. Shell has agreed that the company needs to address these issues (DOI 2013:30-32).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to Michael LeVine of Oceana for helping me understand the legal cases summarized in this article, Dennis Bryant for details on USCG's arctic program, and several reviewers who made constructive suggestions. Any errors are mine.

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# HOW PSG RUNS

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This is an occasional section on the “inner workings” of PSG. The articles reveal how your society does its work—meetings, conservation, journals. In the past year, PSG’s administration has been adapting to our increases in membership and programs. This section describes recent changes in our membership procedures, fiscal accounting, and EXCO’s “professionalism.” (That’s in quotes because EXCO members are volunteers; however, they fulfill real responsibilities).

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## EXCO RECEIVES FORMAL BOARD TRAINING IN PORTLAND

Kim Rivera, Past Chair

PSG is a nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors called the Executive Council (EXCO). EXCO is composed of six officers, eight regional representatives, and one student representative; all are elected by the membership. There are also four appointed non-voting members: editor of *Pacific Seabirds*, website coordinator, Listserve coordinator, and communications coordinator. We are all volunteers. For many years, EXCO has talked about receiving some formal training, especially to better understand our roles and responsibilities as members of a board of directors. After all, we’re a group of seabird biologists, and most of us have a limited range of experience with nonprofit boards (from zero to a lot!)—so what do we really know about how a board of directors should operate and function?

Acting on that idea, we contracted with an expert to assist and train us, an expert in nonprofit governance who has the skills needed to educate the board. Pat Baird, PSG member (and current Secretary) led the charge in finding that expert and organizing our training session. Thank you, Pat! She also enlisted the help of Ron LeValley to videotape the entire session, thus making the training available to future EXCO members; thank you, Ron!

Our primary objective for the session was pretty simple—train EXCO in their roles and responsibilities. Our trainer was John Glaza, a professional in nonprofit management and governance who has

worked with hundreds of boards and their members, accumulating significant experience with best practices in nonprofit management. He was a great fit with our EXCO team and met with us for a half-day training session, the day prior to our EXCO meeting in Portland, Oregon. Great timing for us to put our new knowledge to immediate use!

Who was invited to the training? The current EXCO, EXCO nominees in the recent PSG election, and those who had expressed an interest in serving on a future EXCO. We had 23 enthusiastic participants. To prepare for the training session and to learn more about PSG and EXCO, John developed and conducted a confidential survey of EXCO members, former PSG chairs, and PSG members who had expressed an interest in serving on EXCO in the future. See below for a summary of those survey results.

Our training began with a couple of team-building exercises—we all can understand how important it is for a team to work well together, not only for our training session but for cooperation that is required for EXCO to carry out its work, both at annual meetings and throughout the year. The focus of our training time together was on the key roles and responsibilities of a board—establishing the organization’s direction, ensuring resources for our organization, and providing oversight to our operations. We also spent time considering the responsibilities of

individual EXCO members, as well as how to build and grow our EXCO.

Our discussions flowed through the following themes:

- Keeping PSG’s mission and vision “front and center” in EXCO’s work, and up to date
- How to recruit EXCO members based on its gaps and needs;
- What motivates us to serve PSG and EXCO;
- The importance of meaningful communication by PSG and EXCO, including mentorship of new EXCO members by their outgoing counterparts, and a user-friendly PSG Handbook, a helpful guide for EXCO members (and others in PSG);
- The responsibility of EXCO (and each member) to oversee PSG’s finances and activities closely;
- The need for EXCO members to be well-informed before attending a meeting, and to act for PSG’s best interests;
- Clear roles and responsibilities for committee coordinators and regional representatives; and
- Consideration of EXCO term limits, for healthy rotation within the board.

Judging by the lit-up faces and enthusiastic participation, I would say the training session was successful and provided a lot of new and useful information for all of EXCO to consider. In response to the training and our group

## HOW PSG RUNS • EXCO training

discussions, in my capacity as Chair, I appointed an EXCO Team Task Force to make recommendations to EXCO for actions that stem from this training session. The Task Force and the Charge that I provided to it are described below. We look forward to their draft report and recommendations this summer!

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SURVEY: SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Survey and Summary by John  
Glaza, training consultant

**Overview**—The day before PSG's Executive Council (EXCO) meeting in Portland, Oregon, EXCO participated in a training session by John Glaza (see preceding article). In preparation for the training, Mr. Glaza invited EXCO Members, PSG members interested in serving on EXCO, and former PSG chairs to take a confidential survey. In all, 65 people were invited to take the survey on 28 January 2013, with a deadline of 11 February 2013. Survey invitees were encouraged through several reminders to participate in the survey; by the deadline, 32 of 65 had responded. John Glaza prepared the following summary of survey results.

[Note: If at least three people make the same or similar comment, it is considered a "trend."]

**Q1. In the past year, what would you say has been the most significant accomplishment this past year?** (N=32 of 32)

*Comment Trends* – 32 responses

- 1.1 Holding the annual meeting – maintaining great quality
- 1.2 Improving financial systems and oversight.
- 1.3 Surviving the challenges of the past few years.

**Q2. What are the two greatest assets/strengths of PSG?** (N=31 of 32)

*Comment Trends* – 31 responses

- 2.1. Strength of membership
- 2.2. Commitment and dedication to research and conservation
- 2.3. Quality and scientific content of annual meetings
- 2.4. Network of committed individuals.
- 2.5. Longevity
- 2.6. Involvement of students

**Q3. As you look to the future of PSG, what do you see as two opportunities for the organization in the next two years?** (N=32 of 32 and 26 of 32)

*Comment Trends* – 32 responses + 26 responses

- 3.1. Working with other seabird groups – play leadership role in working together
- 3.2. Promoting seabird conservation and awareness, use our influence and credibility
- 3.3. Attract younger scientists – assure continuity by mentoring them
- 3.4. Further develop EXCO effectiveness, financial management, and strategic direction

**Q4. In your opinion, what is the organization's highest priority in the next year?** (N=32 of 32)

*Comment Trends* – 32 responses

- 4.1. Hold successful annual meeting
- 4.2. Improve governance – financial oversight and effectiveness of board
- 4.3. Recruit younger members and scientists
- 4.4. Facilitate a relationship with World Seabird Union
- 4.5. Build membership
- 4.6. Complete a strategic plan

**Q5. What statement best represents your belief about whether the Executive Council has the right mix of skills and experiences to be most effective at their job?** (N=30 of 32)

- I don't know: 0 (0.0%)
- Our skills and experiences mix is adequate: 0 (0.0%)

- We are lacking in many areas: 5 (16.7%)
- We have good representation of skills and experiences in all necessary areas: 4 (13.3%)
- We have good skills and experiences in most necessary areas: 13 (43.3%)
- We have some gaps in needed areas: 8 (26.7%)

*Comment Trends* – 10 responses:

While there were no comment trends, comments included the importance of communicating with membership, improving leadership and skill gaps, involving other in EXCO.

**Q6. Please list the two greatest strengths/talents that you contribute to PSG.** (N=29 of 32)

*Comment Trends* – 29 responses

- 6.1. Organizational skills – detail oriented
- 6.2. Experience and expertise in seabird conservation
- 6.3. Financial oversight, savvy about money, experience with finances
- 6.4. Experience with others NGOs and nonprofit boards
- 6.5. Positive outlook – optimism – enthusiasm
- 6.6. History with the organization – institutional memory

**Q7. What do you appreciate and value most about your relationship with PSG?** (N=31 of 32)

*Comment Trends* – 31 responses

- 7.1. Supportive community – inspiration of others
- 7.2. Annual meetings – important professional and supportive scientific forum
- 7.3. Important and meaningful connections with colleagues and friends
- 7.4. Professional development and learning opportunities
- 7.5. The people and their passion
- 7.6. Opportunity to work with so many people who are so passionate and informed about seabirds



**Q8. On a scale of 1 to 6, with 1 being lousy and 6 being fantastic, how would you rate the current effectiveness of EXCO? (N = 32)**

- 1 = Lousy: 2 (6.3%)
- 2: 2 (6.3%)
- 3: 6 (18.8%)
- 4: 13 (40.6%)
- 5: 8 (25.0%)
- 6 = Fantastic: 1 (3.1%)

**Q9. What improvements could be made in the organization? Please list up to three. (N=30 of 32)**

*Comment Trends – 30 responses*

- 9.1. Communication with members
- 9.2. Board training – roles and responsibilities
- 9.3. Recruit new and younger members to EXCO
- 9.4. Focus on conservation initiatives
- 9.5. Create scientific advisory board

**Q10. If you had a magic wand and had two wishes for PSG, what would you wish for? (N=27 of 32)**

*Comment Trends – 27*

- 10.1. Increase money in endowment
- 10.2. Acquire enough financial resources to hire Executive Director

## **CHARGE TO TEAM TASK FORCE: ACTION ITEM FROM EXCO'S BOARD TRAINING, 19 FEBRUARY 2013**

**Kim Rivera, 2012 PSG Chair**

At EXCO's meeting of 20 February 2013, we identified an immediate action item as follow-up from our training session on the previous day (see first article in this section). This action item was to develop a task force, a team that will make recommendations to EXCO for actions it can take that stem from the board training session.

As Chair, I appointed the following EXCO and non-EXCO members to the task force, and I requested that a draft report and recommendations be submitted to EXCO by 31 July 2013: Jennifer Boyce, Brian Cooper, Adrian Gall (Task Force Coordinator), Don Lyon, Michelle Kappes, Michelle Kissling, Ken Morgan, and Stan Senner.

I have provided direction to the task force (its charge) to develop action items for EXCO:

### **A. The action items should be:**

- Concrete
- Have high likelihood of success, i.e.,

do-able, be achievable

- Framed as short-, medium-, or long-term goals, to recognize the various levels of effort and foresight that may be needed to implement actions

**B. Action items should incorporate common themes that were addressed in training,** and that will serve to move EXCO and PSG forward. Types of areas/themes to be addressed could include but are not limited to:

- Board roles and responsibilities
  - Establish direction
  - Ensure resources
  - Provide oversight
  - As a group, and as individual EXCO members
- Mentorship
  - Outgoing EXCO/Committee member mentor incoming EXCO/Committee member
- Transparency of EXCO meetings and Committee meetings, and communication with membership
- Recruitment and targeting of talent for EXCO and Committees
- Commitment to our mission of seabird conservation
- Maturing of our organization and business practices

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## **HOW EXCO MEMBERS CAN AVOID PERSONAL LIABILITY WHEN VOTING ON FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Daniel L. Rottinghaus and Vivian Mendenhall**

A few members of EXCO have asked whether they could be personally liable for a motion that EXCO approved. The short answer is, *“Generally not, if you take reasonable care to pay attention, be informed about the issue, and avoid conflicts of interest.”*

The following article describes board's fiscal duties under the law of

California (the state where PSG is incorporated).

I have condensed the full article from one posted on the Web by D.L. Rottinghaus ([www.hanfordfreund.com/attachments/042\\_BOD\\_fiduciary\\_duties.pdf](http://www.hanfordfreund.com/attachments/042_BOD_fiduciary_duties.pdf)). My version has been reviewed by a lawyer with experience in nonprofit governance. Articles on board duties

also appeared in *Pacific Seabirds* 38(1-2):7-11.

**–Vivian Mendenhall, Editor**

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Under California corporation law, each member of a board of directors is a *fiduciary* (someone who manages property for another person).



## HOW PSG RUNS • EXCO's financial duties

Members of a board are subject to a high standard. In the case of a nonprofit board such as EXCO, the law says that all board members must act in the best interests of the organization they serve. (This includes minority factions in the group, if any.) There are two primary rules a board member is bound to follow: (1) Put the interests of the group above your own personal interests and those of other entities, and (2) Always exercise prudent business judgment.

*Prudent business judgment* does not mean that all board members need to be experienced in business. It means that a board member must make his or her decisions carefully, using common sense and informed judgment. A member who doesn't have the necessary knowledge for a decision should make reasonable inquiry from others (including non-board members) who have experience or competence. Members should consider biases that people whom they consult

might have. They should also consider potential long-term consequences of a proposal, not just the current situation. After the board has discussed an issue and it's time to vote, each individual is expected to exercise his or her independent judgment.

The law does not demand that the board's decisions must always turn out to be right, from a 20/20 hindsight perspective. It only requires that each decision must be made with ordinary care and inquiry.

The author offers a few tips for avoiding the pitfalls of one's obligations as a director:

1. *Abstain from voting if there could appear to be a conflict of interest.* Even if there isn't, abstain if it could be perceived as such by others. Regardless of whether you vote or not, you should disclose the apparent conflict honestly and completely before the vote is taken.

2. *Know and follow the rules and laws that apply to your corporation.* If you don't understand them, seek clarification. EXCO members need to read relevant parts of PSG's Bylaws and Handbook.

3. *Consult and rely on experts;* you have a right to ely on experts who can help you out, to a reasonable extent. You are not obligated to accept the expert's advice, but you should have a valid reason for rejecting it.

4. *The Board should have adequate Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance,* sometimes called a "D & O policy" or an "errors and omissions policy." Members of the board should read the policy (and, if they need an explanation, should consult somebody).

5. *Be attentive to board matters.* Board members who consistently miss meetings, fail to participate, or do not pay attention to business are not acting "prudently."

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## RECENT CHANGES IN PSG'S FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTING

Lindsay Young, PSG Treasurer

### CHANGES IN PSG'S FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

In February 2012, after PSG's 39th Annual Meeting in Hawai'i, treasurer Ron LeValley requested a leave of absence and ultimately resigned. Lindsay Young, the local organizing chair for the Hawai'i meeting, was appointed by PSG's Executive Council (EXCO) to serve the remainder of Ron's term.

EXCO gave me, as the new treasurer, the further assignment of implementing some changes to streamline PSG's accounting practices. In March 2012,

PSG voluntarily underwent an external audit to ensure that its accounting practices were in compliance with all IRS and state regulations. The audit concluded that PSG was in compliance with all necessary laws, and that our books added up over the period which they reviewed (the fiscal year from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2012). However, there were multiple procedural issues that were uncovered during this process.

As a result, the accounting firm recommended some changes to ensure that multiple individuals within the EXCO had oversight of PSG's accounts, and

that the treasurer's workload be reduced.

- The treasurer alone has historically kept PSG's books and handled our expenditures, aside from hiring an accountant to prepare our tax returns. One major recommendation was that PSG should provide more oversight of transactions by having two people review them, especially each expenditure of funds.
- The balance sheets have been kept on the treasurer's computer; the auditors recommended that we keep all important documents in a

## HOW PSG RUNS • Changes in accounting

place that is accessible to all EXCO members, and retain them for up to seven years.

- The treasurer has also handled membership duties, although the need for a “membership assistant” has been apparent for years. The auditors recommended that we separate the membership duties from the treasurer’s position.
- Finally, the auditors recommended that we reduce the term served by the treasurer.

Changes that were implemented as a result of the audit have included:

- Putting all PSG’s accounting into the QuickBooks,
- Employing a bookkeeper to assist the treasurer,
- Creation of a Membership Coordinator position (see below),
- Creation of a secure online FTP site, where PSG’s important documents will be archived, and
- Introduction of strict cash-handling procedures for the Annual Meeting, so that every transaction (e.g., travel awards, auction sales) can be accounted for. The new system was implemented with success at the 2013 meeting in Portland.

While the overhaul of PSG’s financial procedures was a lot of work, the upside is that our affairs are much better organized. In addition, financial reports can now be generated instantly with our new accounting software, so the treasurer can provide nearly real-time data during critical periods (such as during EXCO meetings) when financial decisions are being made.

### CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

As was the case with PSG’s fiscal practices, 2012 was a year in which our membership system was overhauled in order to improve efficiency, reduce confusion regarding the membership

period, and streamline the meeting registration process. Previously, the treasurer was responsible for maintaining the membership database, receiving payments from members, and updating member information. All of this was done in an Excel spreadsheet, with numerous emails between members and the treasurer. The system also did not allow members to access their membership details without personally emailing the treasurer. PSG has grown too big for the treasurer to handle everything

### NEW MEMBERSHIP DATABASE AND RENEWAL SYSTEM

In an attempt to mitigate problems with this system, membership records and renewals were automated in October 2012. Members can now log on at any time to update their contact information, review when they next need to renew, and renew their memberships; in addition, new members can join online. The provider of this service is RegOnline, which was already handling our conference registration. This means that registration and membership will (in theory!) be seamless—at the same time as people register for a meeting, they can renew their memberships or join PSG. As an additional convenience, a member can choose to have RegOnline pay his or her dues automatically each year (without waiting for a reminder from the treasurer).

The automated system was implemented in October 2012, and with the exception of a few hiccups for some individuals, it went relatively smoothly. In the first four months since implementing the system, membership renewals went up by 50% compared to the previous fiscal year, and we have well over 400 current members for 2013.

### NEW RENEWAL PERIOD

PSG memberships follow the calendar year, but until 2013, members were encouraged to renew before the membership year started (during the preceding three months). This resulted in confusion over the membership

period. The rule that encouraged members to pre-pay before each membership year was changed, so that the renewal period will begin on 1 January for membership in the same year. (This has required a Bylaws amendment, which was approved by EXCO at the 40th annual meeting in Portland and is being voted on by the membership.)

### NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

In order to provide PSG with a more coordinated membership system, EXCO voted to appoint a Membership Coordinator to oversee all membership-related tasks. Although the treasurer has always been charged with this duty, many have had assistants (partners, graduate students, etc.) take on the task over the years. The Membership Coordinator will be a non-voting member of EXCO (after another Bylaws amendment is approved). The new position will make official a practice that we’ve already been following. As an added bonus, it fulfills a recommendation of our financial audit (see “Changes to PSG’s financial procedures,” above).

Michelle Hester of Oikonos has stepped up to the challenge as PSG’s first official Membership Coordinator. She will be in “interim” status until the bylaws amendment for the new EXCO position has passed. We look forward to working with her.

From this point forward, individuals needing membership lists (such as for mailing publications, sending ballots, obtaining items for regional reports, etc.), should submit requests to the membership coordinator. An up-to-date membership list can now be generated easily at any time, by downloading data from our new online system. (Previously the membership list had to be updated manually on an Excel spreadsheet, so it was not always up to date.) *Please specify the time period for which the list is needed* (e.g., all members current through a specific date in 2013). An up-to-date list is important—new members register daily, and those who have not renewed by the end of April will be dropped.

## HOW PSG RUNS • Changes in accounting

### DUES INCREASE AND CHANGES

Finally, PSG membership dues have been increased. It was discovered meeting minutes from past years that EXCO had approved a dues increase in 2003, but that it was never implemented. PSG's annual membership dues are among the lowest of professional ornithologists' groups in North America, and they include a twice-yearly issue of *Pacific Seabirds*. The journal is free online, and hard copies are sent members who request them (a value of US\$14 annually for North American subscribers, \$21 for international subscribers). In contrast, most societies have different tiers of membership rates, depending on whether people would like print editions in addition to online versions of their publications. As a result, EXCO voted to adopt the previous rate increase approved in 2003, and to add a \$10 subscription charge for non-life

TABLE 1. Changes in PSG membership dues and dues structure, starting January 2014.

Membership type	Previous rate	New rate
Student	\$24	\$30
Individual	\$30	\$40
Life member	\$900	\$1200
Family	\$30	Eliminated
<i>Pacific Seabirds</i> hard-copy subscription	\$0	\$10 (except Life Members)

members who would still prefer to receive a hard copy of *Pacific Seabirds* (Table 1).

There is one more change in the dues structure: EXCO approved a Bylaws amendment to eliminate the family membership. This category has been used less and less—there were only five family memberships in 2012,

compared with 10 in 2010 and 19 in 2006.

While there are a lot of changes going on at once, we hope that these will improve PSG's efficiency and make the membership renewal process easier for everyone. We appreciate everyone's patience during this transition, and we look forward to seeing all your names in our new membership database!

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## PSG NEWS

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The Pacific Seabird Group has grown and undertaken more projects; therefore, we've had to modernize our record keeping. The items below explain the new dues, how and when to renew, and our new Membership Coordinator. More details are in "How PSG Runs," preceding this section. Also read the news about elections, Bylaws amendments, new committee coordinators, Handbook, and PSG's other fiscal changes.

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### CHANGES IN PSG MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

#### PSG RAISES DUES AND ENDS FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Council (EXCO) approved a dues increase at the February 2013 meeting. As of 1 January 2014, Individual Memberships will be

\$40 per year, Student Memberships will be \$30, and Life Memberships will be \$1200. The additional money will support PSG's ongoing programs—member services such as the web site, Listserv, and Facebook accounts; our support of seabird work in developing countries; and record-keeping (see also below).

PSG's current annual dues are among the lowest of North American societies. The Cooper, Wilson, and Waterbird Societies, and the Raptor

Research Foundation currently charge \$40 to \$50 per individual; the American Ornithologists' Union charges \$90. PSG has increased our dues five times since 1975 (when membership cost just \$5.00!). In 1989 we instituted the categories of Student, Family, and Life Memberships. Since the start of 2007, Individual and Family Memberships have been \$30, Students \$24, and Life Memberships \$900.



## PSG NEWS

Another change: the Family category (two for the price of one) will be eliminated, under Bylaws amendments that members will soon vote on (more on that below). There were only five Family memberships in 2012.

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### BARGAIN ON LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

If you've been thinking of becoming a Life Member of PSG, now is the time. Currently the cost is \$900; as of 1 January 2014, Life Memberships will rise to \$1200. Installment payments can be arranged, and they won't change if you start paying before the price goes up.

Life Members will be able to receive "hard copies" of *Pacific Seabirds* if they so request, without paying the new subscription charge that is beginning for regular members (see below). Life Membership payments are deposited in our Endowment Fund, which provides support for PSG's publications (including our two journals).

A list of Life Members is near the back of every *Pacific Seabirds*.

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### PSG MEMBERSHIPS: COMPUTERIZED RECORDS, ONLINE PAYMENTS

PSG members will henceforth renew their memberships online. Go to the PSG website (<http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org>) and click on the "Membership" tab at the top; or go directly to the membership website, <https://www.regonline.com/psgmembership>

PSG has used this online system for renewals since early 2013, so hopefully any "bugs" have been ironed out. However, if questions arise, you can contact the new Membership Coordinator for assistance (see news item below).

There are several advantages to the online renewal system. You can renew each year without needing to contact the Treasurer. You can also check your

records online to see whether your membership is paid up, and to update your personal information (such as email or mailing address). And you can sign up for "auto-pay"—the system can renew your membership automatically every year, until you tell it not to.

The membership database that's linked to the online program will always provide the Treasurer and Membership Coordinator with up-to-date records. Previously, membership records were kept in an Excel spreadsheet and were updated by hand. This meant they could not be up to date at all times, and (rarely but inevitably) errors crept in.

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### NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PERIOD

The new period for renewing memberships is 1 January to 30 April of each year. For many years it has been possible to renew starting in October of the previous year. This was convenient for some members, but the new online program does not accommodate early renewals.

If you haven't paid your dues and the four-month renewal period is ending, the Membership Coordinator will send a reminder. Members who haven't renewed by 30 April will be dropped from PSG's records (including the Listserv) for that year, or until they pay up.

New PSG members will join using the same online system. They are invited to join at any time during the year (although joining in January is the best bargain, since memberships end on 31 December).

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### MEMBERS' DISCOUNT FOR MEETING REGISTRATION

When members register online for the Annual Meeting, the system will automatically provide the members' registration rate, which is lower than for nonmembers. Nonmembers are encouraged to

join PSG, and they will be able to receive the members' registration rate if they join immediately before registering for the meeting. New members may wish to wait until January to join and register, which will allow them to receive a full year's membership, in addition to the members' discount for the meeting.

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### PSG MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Michelle Hester, of Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, has agreed to be PSG's first Membership Coordinator. This will be a new non-voting position on the Executive Council, pending approval of a Bylaws amendment. Michelle will take over the various membership duties that have been part of the Treasurer's job. The two will work together closely, of course.

The position of Membership Coordinator will solve a problem that PSG's treasurers have faced for many years. As PSG has grown, it's become a large job to keep their records up to date, in addition to the treasurer's financial duties. Several treasurers have recruited volunteers to help with membership records, and at least one paid a grad student for the purpose.

The membership coordinator will oversee the web-based system for paying dues (see above). He or she will also provide mailing lists from Executive Council members, who need them for various duties—updates of Listserv subscribers, emails for Regional Representatives (who need to contact their members), the Elections Chair (who distributes ballots), and snail-mail addresses for the Editor (who mails "hard copies" of *Pacific Seabirds*).

Michelle is highly qualified, having played a large role in setting up the new online system. Michelle will take her seat on EXCO as soon as PSG members approve the Bylaws amendment that formalizes her position. People who have questions about membership or the online system can reach her at [michelle@oikonos.org](mailto:michelle@oikonos.org)



## PSG NEWS

The Membership Coordinator will be a non-voting member of EXCO (the others are the Editor of *Pacific Seabirds*, Communications Coordinator, Listserv Coordinator, and the Website Manager.) The non-voting members are people who provide special expertise to PSG and need to keep current on PSG issues, but who are appointed by EXCO rather than elected.

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### SUBSCRIPTION CHARGE FOR “HARD COPIES” OF *PACIFIC SEABIRDS*

In January 2014, PSG will start charging \$10 annually for those who wish to receive “hard copies” of *Pacific Seabirds* in the mail. Life Members will continue to receive the journal for free (as before, they need to request this). Online access will also continue to be free.

Since 1975, PSG’s journal-cum-news-bulletin has been provided to all members who wish it, at no cost beyond PSG dues. (The journal was called *PSG Bulletin* in early days, and *Pacific Seabirds* since 1994). In 2009 we started publishing the journal online; access is free to all (including nonmembers). At that time we started mailing hard copies of *Pacific Seabirds* only to members who specifically request them—still at no cost.

The subscription fee will help to cover PSG’s costs to mail hard copies of *Pacific Seabirds*. Printing and postage cost US\$14 per year for US residents and \$21 for international recipients.

Incidentally, PSG saves money on putting together *Pacific Seabirds*, because editing and layout are done entirely by volunteers. In contrast, most societies pay people for these tasks; together they would cost approximately \$2000 for an average issue of *Pacific Seabirds*, based on the going rates in 2013. These costs are not included in our charge for “hard copies,” since the same jobs are necessary for both electronic and print versions.

*Marine Ornithology*, which PSG publishes jointly with other seabird soci-

eties, continues to be available online for free; a hard-copy subscription costs \$40.

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## OTHER NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS JOIN EXCO FOR 2013; NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2014 EXCO

The Executive Council for 2013 took office on 23 February with five new members:

**Chair-Elect:** Jo Smith

**Vice-chair for Conservation:** Stan Senner

**Secretary:** Pat Baird

**Regional Representative for Washington and Oregon:** Peter Hodum

**Regional Representative for Southern California, Hawai’i, and Latin America:** Annette Henry

As usual, last year’s Chair-Elect, Doug Forsell, became Chair; and last year’s Chair, Kim Rivera, became Past Chair. Treasurer Lindsay Young, who was appointed by EXCO last year to fill a sudden vacancy, was confirmed in this office until the next election. Members who were re-elected to another term on EXCO were the Regional Representatives for Canada (Ken Morgan) and the Non-Pacific United States (Iain Stenhouse).

We thank all EXCO members for committing a part of their busy lives to running PSG. Without the willing (and occasionally self-sacrificing) volunteers on EXCO, PSG could not exist. Contact information for all EXCO members is on the inside back cover of *Pacific Seabirds*.

Nominations are now open for 2014 EXCO members, who will be elected early next year. The positions that will be up for grabs are **Chair-Elect** (into which a new person steps every year), and the two-year positions that were not voted on in 2013: **Treasurer**, **Student Representative**, and the **Regional Representatives for Alaska/Russia**,

**Northern California, Europe/Africa, and Asia/Oceania**.

Please contact Elections Chair Pat Baird (email: pab7@sfu.ca) if you, or someone you know, would like to run. Duties of each EXCO member are listed in PSG’s Bylaws (Article III) and the PSG Handbook (pages 6–18). Both of these are on PSG’s website ([www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org)). For the Bylaws, click on the “About Us” tab and scroll to the link at the bottom of the page; for the Handbook, click on the “Publications” tab.

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### CRAIG HARRISON HAS BEEN LONGEST-SERVING EXCO MEMBER

Craig Harrison, who just stepped down as Vice-chair for Conservation, served on EXCO for 30 (that’s thirty!) years.

Craig was Vice-chair for Conservation for 21 years, from 1992, the year the position was created, through 2012. (The Conservation Committee was active previously, but its Coordinator was not on EXCO.) Craig issued PSG’s many conservation letters to agencies and other entities, drawing on his experience as a wildlife biologist and as an environmental attorney. (He would point out that PSG’s committees and other members have helped by drafting or commenting on letters.) Craig has played a major role in establishing PGS’s reputation for science-based advice on conservation issues affecting seabirds. And many plans of governments and others have been changed to consider seabirds, as a result of PSG’s comments.

Craig’s tenure ran for an odd number of years because of a minor error in the election process—he ran in one election only a year after the previous one.

Craig was previously on EXCO for four years as Regional Representative for Hawai’i (from 1978, the first year the position existed, through 1981); one year each as Chair-elect (1982) and Chair

## PSG NEWS

(1983); and three years as Past Chair (1984-1986—the Past Chair formerly served for 3 years). In addition, he has provided valuable legal advice to EXCO and continues to in retirement.

Thank you, Craig.

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### NEW COORDINATORS FOR PSG COMMITTEES

Four new coordinators have joined PSG's hardworking corps of committees, as of February 2013:

**Conservation Committee:** Stan Senner, in his capacity as the new Vice-Chair for Conservation

**Membership:** Michelle Hester is the new Membership Coordinator (and will also be a member of EXCO, under a pending Bylaws amendment)

**Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee:** Kim Nelson joins Dave Huber as Co-Coordinator

**Japan Seabird Conservation Committee:** Kim Nelson and Kuniko Otsuki are the new Co-Coordinators

The coordinators attained their status in several ways, as specified in PSG's Bylaws. Stan was elected to EXCO (and the coordinator position) by the PSG membership; Michelle will also join EXCO when the Bylaws amendments are approved this spring (see news item above); and the other new coordinators were appointed by the 2012 Chair, Kim Rivera.

PSG thanks the retiring coordinators of these committees for their hard work over many years. Craig served for 21 years (see preceding item). Since 2007, Bill Ritchie has led the MMTCC and Motohiro Ito has run the JSCC. These people (as also our other committee coordinators) have devoted a significant part of their lives to our conservation work. Without you, PSG couldn't be a leader in seabird conservation—indeed, we wouldn't be doing conservation at all. We owe you a lot!

### NEW ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEE

Jim Kushlan was appointed by Kim Rivera, the 2012 Chair, as one of PSG's three Endowment Fund trustees. Dr. James A. Kushlan is a Life Member of PSG and has published numerous research papers and several books on waterbird conservation. He is a founding member and former president of the Waterbird Society, and is on the boards of the American Bird Conservancy and the Zoological Society of Florida, among numerous other conservation activities. The other Endowment Fund trustees are Ken Briggs, and the PSG Treasurer (currently Lindsay Young). We welcome Jim's involvement in PSG.

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### PSG GETS AN AUDIT AND A BOOKKEEPER

In 2012, EXCO approved an audit of our financial records for the most recent full year (October 2011–September 2012). We voluntarily undertook the audit to ensure that our accounting was in order. PSG has grown over the years, and we now have more financial commitments of greater complexity. The treasurer (Lindsay Young) and EXCO wanted to make sure that our procedures are up to the challenge.

The audit concluded that our books added up, and that we've been fulfilling all laws and regulations (federal and state). However, the auditors recommended some improvements in our record keeping, reduction of the treasurer's workload, archiving of our records in a secure place, and oversight of accounts and expenditures by two people. For details see "Recent Changes in PSG's Financial and Membership Accounting," in the section "How PSG Runs" in this issue.

Among other innovations, PSG will hire the part-time services of a bookkeeper to work with the Treasurer; the person will also do quarterly reviews

of the accounts and prepare tax returns. Another new position, the Membership Coordinator (see above), will further reduce the treasurer's workload and allow for better record-keeping.

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### BYLAWS AMENDMENTS ON NEW PSG PROCEDURES

Five amendments to PSG's Bylaws were approved by EXCO at their meeting in 20 February 2013, and they are being submitted to all PSG members for approval in spring 2013. The full text of the amendments was sent to all members along with the ballot. Reasons for the changes in membership procedures are explained above. In brief, the amendments will:

- Delete the Family Membership from PSG's list of membership categories (Article II, Section 1)
- Add a Membership Coordinator to EXCO, describe the person's duties, and delete membership tasks from the Treasurer's duties (Article III, Section 2 and new Section 7)
- Change the period during which memberships are renewed each year (Article II, Section 2).
- Require that all proposals for EXCO to approve expenditures above \$2000 must be submitted in writing at least a week before the EXCO meeting, and must specify a maximum amount to be spent (Article III, Section 2). This will ensure that EXCO members have a chance to consider whether the expenditure is appropriate, and to research the proposal if needed. The provision will not apply to expenditures that have already been approved as part of an annual budget or a meeting budget.
- Extend the period for nominations to EXCO from one month to approximately six months; the new period will be from 1 May until 8 weeks before new EXCO takes office (Article IV, Section 1). This will give members who might be in the field during spring and summer a chance to nominate candidates.

## PSG HANDBOOK UPDATED

The newly revised *Handbook* is now posted on PSG's website (on the "Publications" page)

PSG's *Handbook* describes the job of each EXCO member and PSG committee, and it gives detailed suggestions on carrying out their duties. Among the most detailed sections is the advice on planning and accomplishing an Annual Meeting. The *Handbook* is revised periodically, as EXCO members and Local Committees solve new problems, and as PSG's procedures are updated. Heather Major, the PSG secretary in 2012, spent months getting suggestions from EXCO and others and editing the document. In December she issued the new edition.

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## FEDERAL EMPLOYEES MAY NOW SERVE ON NONPROFIT BOARDS BUT MUST STILL AVOID CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

On 6 March 2013, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics stated that federal employees may serve on the boards of nonprofit organizations (NGOs).

A regulation had been in place since 1996 to prevent federal employees from serving on NGO boards under some circumstances. The rule had been intended to prevent conflicts of interest that might arise if a person had financial

duties to both the NOG and the federal government.

Ellen Paul, executive director of the Ornithological Council, led the effort to reverse the prohibition as it affected government scientists (see "Committee Reports" in this issue).

There are still some prohibitions on activities that would create conflicts of interest. For example, the employee should not be involved in requesting federal grants on behalf of the NGO, deciding whether to award such grants to the NGO, or writing federal regulations that could affect the NGO. The official announcement recommends that employees discuss any questions with their supervisors or their agency's ethics officer.

More information is at <http://www.oge.gov/OGE-Advisories/Legal-Advisories/LA-13-05---18-U-S-C--%C2%A7-208%28b%29%282%29-Exemption-for-Official-Participation-in-Nonprofit-Organizations/>

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## PACIFIC SEABIRDS DEADLINES ARE CAST IN STONE

Deadlines for submitting material to be published in *Pacific Seabirds* are 20 March for the Spring issue and 1 October for the Fall issue. These deadlines were agreed on by EXCO at the meeting in

February 2012.

In the interests of getting the journal out on time, EXCO instructed the Editor in February 2013 to be firm with these deadlines. Anything she receives after the deadline may be postponed until the following issue.

If someone will have difficulty meeting a deadline, the compiler or author is welcome (in fact, urged) to write or call the Editor—preferably *before* the deadline; we may be able to work something out. Your work is more likely to get published if you perform the courtesy of contacting the editor.

These deadlines apply to authors of reports and papers. They are also for *compilers*—the people who request information from other members, combine it, and then send it to the editor. (They are mainly the Regional Representatives and Conservation Editor.) Compilers need to set an earlier deadline to receive material from other members, to ensure they have time to get the material and compile it into a report.

The Editor will attempt to remind all contributors a month before the deadline—around 20 February for the Spring issue and 1 September for fall. Compilers will receive their reminders earlier—on or before 20 January for Spring and 1 August for fall. This will allow them to request their input from members (at that time—not a week or two before the journal's deadline, please).

Thank you to everyone who contributes to *Pacific Seabirds*!



# MEETING NEWS

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## PSG'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 2013

Vivian Mendenhall and Adrian Gall

The Pacific Seabird Group's 40th Annual Meeting was held at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon, on 20-24 February 2013. The event featured three days of papers, each anchored with a plenary lecture. Awards were given on the 24th for the best student paper and poster. PSG's Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Malcolm Coulter. Since this award unfortunately was posthumous, the ceremony included a memorial to Malcolm (see articles earlier in this issue).

The three plenary talks focused on distinct and compelling conservation issues: "Current Status and Future Directions of Marbled Murrelet Science and Conservation" (Zach Peery); "An Interesting Tern of Events: Learning from Caspian Terns and Other Salmon-Eating Waterbirds about What Matters Most for Coastal Colonial Seabirds" (Dan Roby); and a career-long perspective on "Contaminants in Seabirds: Past, Current, and Future Research and Conservation Priorities" (Bob Risebrough).

Topics of paper sessions included Marbled Murrelets, Conservation, Seabirds and Marine Spatial Planning, Breeding Biology, Conservation Toxicology, Foraging Ecology, Climate Change and Changing Seascape, and Bycatch and Seabirds at Sea. There were 115 oral presentations and 57 posters. Doug Forsell, the Scientific Program Chair for the meeting, noted that the PSG community always welcomes students, who presented fully one-third of our presentations. What's more, over ten percent of the papers were presented by our colleagues from Japan, showing both their increased seabird research and their participation in PSG.

PSG presents awards each year for the best student paper and poster. This

year, for the first time, each award was in two categories: best paper and poster by a PhD student, and best paper and poster by a Master's, Bachelor's, or high school student (yes, a few of those gave presentations!). Annette Fayet won the best PhD student paper award; for the best MS/BS/HS award, Dena Spatz and Chris Millow (MS students) were tied. The best PhD student poster was by Dale Kikuchi; the best MS/BS/HS student poster was by Olivia Feinstein (BS student).

PSG also provides modest travel awards to help people attend the meeting. These awards are in 3 categories: (1) US and Canadian students, (2) students from elsewhere in the world, and (3) scientists (professionals, not students) from countries outside the US and Canada. Four travel awards of \$500 each were given to international scientists: V. Colodro (Chile), S. Garthe and J. Kotzerka (Germany), and A. Klenova (Russia). Support for the scientists' travel was by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Seventeen US/Canadian students and 13 non-US/Canadian students received travel awards of \$160 each. The awards were used to pay for the students' registration fees. Support for this year's student travel awards was from the U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Research Units Program. Pat Jodice chaired the Awards Committee.

Annual Meetings are always accompanied by committee meetings, an all-day meeting of the Executive Council (EXCO), and sometimes by workshops. There was a full slate of meetings by the committees for Marbled Murrelets, Kittlitz's Murrelets, Scripps's and Guadalupe Murrelets (formerly a single species, Xantus's Murrelet), monitoring Japanese seabirds, and albatrosses. Annual reports from these committees and others appear elsewhere in this issue of

*Pacific Seabirds*; minutes for each committee meeting should be available from the respective chairs.

A training workshop for EXCO took place the afternoon of 19 February. Pat Baird organized this session for the benefit of any PSG member who was interested in the duties and responsibilities of a nonprofit organization's board of directors. (Articles on the board training appear in the "How PSG Runs" section in this issue.) We are an all-volunteer organization without paid staff; it's impressive that we continue to be a solvent and effective group 40 years after the first meeting.

Working/social occasions included an evening "ice breaker," a poster session, and a student/professional mentoring session, all with impressive hors d'oeuvres and plenty of liquids. The traditional banquet was held on Saturday night, followed by the Awards Ceremony, and then by an actual birthday party for PSG. The party featured a gorgeous cake and rockin' entertainment. Besides a band, we heard standout karaoke and live performances by enthusiastic members from several continents.

Field trips were offered on a pelagic cruise, to the state refuge on nearby Sauvie Island, and a pub crawl (well, it was entitled a "Beer Tasting.") The pelagic cruise unfortunately was cancelled due to high winds. Sauvie Island treated us to impressive and beautiful flocks of wintering waterfowl and other species. The writers assume that the beer was enjoyable, too.

The hardworking Local Committee was chaired by Holly Freifeld. They put together a wildly successful meeting. As a side note, the meeting exceeded all budgeting expectations and earned PSG a healthy profit for our general fund.



## MEETING NEWS • 2013 Annual Meeting



PSG's 40th birthday cake, designed by Michelle Kappes



Singing PSGers: James Lawonn, Timothy Lawes, Don Lyons



Sophie Webb—artist, biologist, and PSG member, with friend Daiya. Sophie donated the art for the 2013 program cover and T-shirts.



Dancing the night away—Kuniko Otsuki and Gerry McChesney



Everyone wanted their picture around the cake. PSG Chairs: Craig Harrison (1983), George Divoky (1976, 1993), Kim Rivera (2012), Alan Burger (1998), Julia Parrish (2000), Kim Nelson (1997), David Irons (2003), Patrick Jodice (2011), Dan Roby (2004), Dan Anderson (1978, 1985), Mark Rauzon (1995), Doug Forsell (2013), Doug Bertram (2008).



2012 EXCO: Ken Morgan, Vivian Mendenhall, Patrick Jodice, Heather Major, Lindsay Young, Doug Forsell, Don Lyons, Yutuka Watanuki, Adrian Gall, Kim Nelson.



(Left) The Local Committee for the 2013 Annual Meeting: Lindsay Young, Holly Freifeld (Chair), Kim Nelson, Allison Mohoric, Petger Kappes, Michelle Kappes, Kirston Bixler, Tim Lawes, Don Lyons. (Not pictured: Jessida Adkins, Lindsay Adrean, Amanda Gladics, Pete Loschl.)

# FUTURE PSG MEETINGS

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## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE IN JUNEAU

PSG's 41st Annual Meeting will take place on 18-21 February 2014, in Juneau, Alaska. The Local Committee co-chairs are Sadie Wright (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) and Yumi Arimitsu (U.S. Geological Survey). The meeting will be held at Centennial Hall, a modern facility in the old downtown core of the city. Centennial Hall is not a hotel, but there are several hotels within close

walking distance, including the Baranof, Goldbelt, and Driftwood Lodge. The Local Committee presented a preliminary budget to the Executive Council in February 2013.

The Inside Passage of Southeast Alaska is a major wintering area for marine birds. Field trips are tentative but could include coastal and pelagic birding, as well as venues that feature skiing, hot springs, a microbrewery, and the Mendenhall Glacier (no, it wasn't named after the Editor, just a famous geophysicist).

## PSG'S 2015 MEETING MAY BE IN MONTEREY AREA

The area of Monterey, California has been proposed for PSG's 42nd Annual Meeting. Scott Shaffer has suggested either the Monterey Conference Center, or Asilomar, in nearby Pacific Grove. Both places have been used for several PSG meetings in the past—most recently, Monterey in 1998 and Asilomar in 2007. Scott has submitted an evaluation of the sites to EXCO, which will discuss the plans during a conference call later this year.

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# REPORTS OF PSG OFFICERS FOR 2012

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## CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2012

**Kim Rivera**

My term commenced after the annual PSG meeting in Hawaii in February 2012 and will end at the conclusion of this year's 40th PSG meeting in Portland. During that time, the Executive Council (EXCO) met 3 times via teleconference. Our first intersessional meeting was a closed session on 27 February, followed by sessions on 15 May and 2 October. Although in past years EXCO typically has had just one mid-year call, I anticipate that it may be necessary for us to meet more than once intersessionally to conduct its business. In addition to these meetings, we continued a practice

initiated last year whereby the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Past-Chair had monthly teleconferences to share information and prepare for the EXCO meetings.

EXCO's closed session met to address a leave of absence requested by Ron LeValley, Treasurer. EXCO elected Lindsay Young as interim Treasurer and also established a Financial Committee (Lindsay Young, Ken Briggs, Kim Rivera) to address various financial issues arising with this transition.

EXCO's work at its May and October teleconferences focused on ongoing business, much of it related to work of

the Financial Committee. Following the 2012 Annual PSG Meeting, EXCO retained legal counsel in Hawaii to advise on seeking the return of our deposit to the Makaha Resort (which went out of business shortly before our 2012 meeting). After diligent efforts by attorneys and our Financial Committee to recover our deposit, EXCO received legal advice that additional measures would not be successful and we did not pursue judgment against the Makaha Resort.

The following list highlights just some of EXCO's actions and activities and reflects our progress through the

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS • Chair's Report

year. As you review the list, I hope you see a thread that reflects our efforts to achieve fiscal responsibility, transparency, information sharing, accessibility . . . all to keep our eye on our mission of seabird conservation and study:

- Undergoing a financial audit and implementing the auditor's recommendations
- Updating our accounting practices and implementing the accounting software QuickBooks
- Obtaining a PSG credit card and establishing bank accounts and post office box at the Treasurer's location (Hawaii)
- Automating membership renewal and linking it to the online annual meeting registration
- Establishing an online FTP site for EXCO access to meeting

documents, budgets, and EXCO materials

- Finalizing the latest revision of PSG's *Handbook*
- Organizing and providing a session of board training for EXCO (19 February 2013)
- Extensive efforts to identify 2 qualified nominees for each open slot in the PSG election for 2013 EXCO members

### TRANSITIONS

PSG is people . . . our key assets are our members. I would like to acknowledge three of our members in particular:

- Ron LeValley served EXCO for 9 years as Treasurer, 2003-2011;
- Malcolm Coulter served as PSG's Chair in 1991, was recipient of PSG's Special Achievement Award in 2000, and of our Lifetime

Achievement Award in 2013 (posthumously); and

- Craig Harrison served as PSG's Chair in 1983; Vice-Chair for Conservation for 21 years, 1992-2012; and was recipient of PSG's Special Achievement Award in 1998.

I applaud all three of these gentlemen for the countless hours they have contributed to PSG and to EXCO in particular. Organizations such as ours benefit greatly from their dedicated service.

The Minutes of all EXCO meetings, once they have been approved by EXCO (normally at the following meeting) are posted on our website, and a summary is published in *Pacific Seabirds*. They contain details of EXCO's discussions and decisions.

I appreciate and value the opportunity I've had to work with PSG's EXCO and members in my capacity as Chair.

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2012

Heather Major

### MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the EXCO meetings held on 7, 9, and 10 February 2012 at Oahu were approved at EXCO's meeting of 15 May 2012. They are available in full on PSG's website; a summary will appear in an upcoming issue of *Pacific Seabirds*.

Minutes from the closed EXCO conference call of 27 February 2012 were also approved during the 15 May meeting. Summaries of those minutes are available on the PSG website (as "Message to Members from Kim Rivera"), and in this issue of *Pacific Seabirds*.

Minutes from EXCO's conference call on 15 May 2012 were approved during the following meeting. They are available on the PSG website and are summarized in *Pacific Seabirds* 39(2), Fall 2012. Finally, the minutes for 2 October were approved at the Portland meeting on 20 February 2013; they are on the website, and a summary is in this issue of *Pacific Seabirds*.

### HANDBOOK

The overhaul of PSG's *Handbook* was completed and distributed in December 2012. It is available on the PSG

website. Thanks again to all those who helped in this revision.

A working copy of the *Handbook* is being kept by the secretary and will be updated continually. Depending upon the number of edits in any one year, an updated version will be posted to the PSG website every year or two.

### PSG WEBSITE

In spring 2012, a number of revisions were made to the information on the PSG website. It is important that we keep both *Handbook* and Website current.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS • Treasurer's Reports

### PSG BUDGET FOR 1 OCTOBER 2012 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2013, AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES THROUGH MID-APRIL 2013

Lindsay Young, Treasurer

**Notes:**

1. Figures in parentheses denote negative (minus) values.
2. Travel Awards income and expenses are listed separately from Annual Meeting income and expenses, since Travel Awards are funded separately from the Annual Meeting budget.

#### (1) Income

	2012-2013 Budget	Actual as of 18 April 2013	Actual as % of budget
<b>Annual Meeting Income</b>			
<b>2013 Portland Income</b>			
Banquet	10,500.00	9,610.00	91.52%
Field trips	2,315.00	2,365.00	102.16%
Merchandise	2,625.00	2,980.00	113.52%
Registration	52,348.00	80,366.67	153.52%
Sponsorships	11,850.00	10,350.00	87.34%
2013 Portland Income - Other	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total 2013 Portland Income</b>	79,638.00	105,671.67	132.69%
<b>Total Annual Meeting Income</b>	79,638.00	105,671.67	132.69%
<b>Conservation Fund</b>	9,500.00	1,740.00	18.32%
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	500.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	500.00	302.00	60.4%
<b>Life Membership</b>	500.00	740.00	148.0%
<b>Membership</b>	7,000.00	12,034.00	171.91%
<b>Other Income</b>	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Publications Income</b>			
<i>Marine Ornithology</i>	1,500.00	130.00	8.67%
<i>Pacific Seabirds</i>	300.00	370.00	123.33%
Publications Income - Other	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Publications Income</b>	1,800.00	500.00	27.78%
<b>Travel Awards Income</b>			
Student travel income	2,400.00	2,815.00	117.29%
Travel Awards Income - Other	1,000.00	180.00	18.0%
<b>Total Travel Awards Income</b>	3,400.00	2,995.00	88.09%
<b>Uncategorized Income</b>	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>102,838.00</b>	<b>123,982.67</b>	<b>120.56%</b>

*Continued on next page*



## REPORTS OF OFFICERS • Treasurer's Reports

2012-2013 Budget and figures to date, *continued*:

### (2) Expenses

	<b>2012-2013 Budget</b>	<b>Actual as of 18 April 2013</b>	<b>Actual as % of budget</b>
<b>Accountant fees</b>	13,500.00	9,500.00	70.37%
<b>Annual Meetings Expenses</b>			
<b>2013 Portland Meeting Expenses</b>			
2013 Field Trips	1,575.00	1,035.00	65.71%
Equipment rentals	3,165.00	4,382.50	138.47%
Hotel Charges	51,240.00	55,353.11	108.03%
Invited Speakers	3,150.00	115.95	3.68%
Registration site	2,990.00	2,891.96	96.72%
Miscellaneous	11,196.00	4,226.01	37.75%
2013 Portland Meeting Expenses - Other	0.00	1,943.31	100.0%
<b>Total 2013 Portland Meeting Expenses</b>	73,316.00	69,947.84	95.41%
<b>Annual Meetings Expenses - Other</b>	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Annual Meetings Expenses</b>	73,316.00	69,947.84	95.41%
<b>Bank Charge</b>	2,250.00	1,413.67	62.83%
<b>Conservation Grants</b>	10,500.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Dues And Subscriptions</b>	2,000.00	476.70	23.84%
<b>General Fund</b>	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Government registration fees</b>	150.00	50.00	33.33%
<b>Insurance</b>	1,500.00	1,501.82	100.12%
<b>Legal Fees</b>	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	2,000.00	23.20	1.16%
<b>Postage</b>	150.00	26.50	17.67%
<b>Publications</b>			
<i>Marine Ornithology</i>	10,000.00	4,000.00	40.0%
<i>Pacific Seabirds</i>	5,000.00	5,000.00	100.0%
Publications - Other	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Publications</b>	15,000.00	9,000.00	60.0%
<b>Travel Awards</b>			
Foreign Scientist Travel Award	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Student Travel	480.00	470.00	97.92%
Travel Awards - Other	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Travel Awards</b>	2,480.00	2,470.00	99.6%
<b>Uncategorized Expenses</b>	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>World Seabird Union</b>			
Databases	17,000.00	0.00	0.0%
Seabirds.net	5,000.00	0.00	0.0%
WSC seed money	12,000.00	0.00	0.0%
World Seabird Union - Other	0.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total World Seabird Union</b>	34,000.00	0.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>156,846.00</b>	<b>94,409.73</b>	<b>60.19%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(54,008.00)</b>	<b>29,572.94</b>	<b>(54.76%)</b>

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS • Treasurer's Reports

### PSG FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2010, 2011, AND 2012

#### FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

PSG maintains a number of bank accounts. The operating funds are kept in a regular checking account.

##### Regular checking balance as of:

30 September 2010	30 September 2011	30 September 2012
\$78,227.61	\$102,079.24	\$88,173.87

Our Endowment Fund (Life Memberships and other specially designated monies) are kept in a mutual fund managed by Neuberger and Berman.

##### Endowment Fund balance as of:

30 September 2010	30 September 2011	30 September 2012
\$126,275.54	\$119,879.53	\$146,197.30

A PayPal account is used to accept membership payments, contributions, and other monies by credit card.

##### PayPal balance as of:

30 September 2010	30 September 2011	30 September 2012
\$498.32	\$15,100.28	\$5,882.93

Vivian Mendenhall maintains an account to facilitate the printing and mailing of *Pacific Seabirds*

##### *Pacific Seabirds* balance as of:

30 September 2010	30 September 2011	30 September 2012
\$1,145.10	\$5,740.00	\$1,090.15

##### Total assets as of:

30 September 2010	30 September 2011	30 September 2012
<b>\$206,146.77</b>	<b>\$242,699.05</b>	<b>\$241,344.25</b>

#### PSG ACCOUNTS AS OF 18 FEBRUARY 2013

##### Cash on Hand

Checking Account	\$168,068.52
PayPal	\$7,049.32
Neuberger Berman Investments (Endowment Fund)	<u>\$162,090.82</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$337,208.66</b>

##### Allocated Funds (see Budget for more detailed breakdowns)

PSG 2013 Portland (after bills that have already been paid)	\$66,028.33
WSU products/WSC seed money	\$45,000.00
Other 2013 budget items not spent yet	<u>\$11,050.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$122,078.33</b>

##### Restricted Funds

Craig Harrison Conservation Fund	\$10,149.18
Endowment Fund (Neuberger Berman Investments)	<u>\$162,090.82</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$172,240.00</b>

<b>Unallocated Funds</b>	<b>\$42,890.33</b>
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## REPORTS OF OFFICERS • Treasurer's Reports

### PSG'S ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2010-2011 AND 2011-2012

**Lindsay Young, Treasurer**

[Note: parentheses indicate a negative (minus) value]

	2010-2011	2011-2012	Notes
<b>INCOME</b>			
Conservation Fund	\$1,152.18	\$1,210.00	
Endowment Fund		\$75.00	1
Life Membership	\$1,620.00	\$540.00	
Membership	\$8,883.18	\$6,040.00	
Institutional Subscriptions	\$525.00	\$210.00	
General Fund	\$19,751.00	\$272.00	
Marine Ornithology	\$2,470.00	\$1,320.00	
Student Travel	\$50.00	\$4,000.00	
2010 Long Beach Meeting	\$9,000	\$0	2
2012 Oahu Meeting	\$18,323.36	\$164,663.36	
Tax Refund	\$6618.68		
World Seabird Conference (WSC)	\$94,095.15		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$162,488.55</b>	<b>\$178,340.36</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Bank Charge	(\$780.45)	(\$1808.13)	
Conservation Fund	(\$6,110.00)		
Dues And Subscriptions	(\$1,998.53)	(\$1,456.56)	
Insurance	(\$1,400.00)	(\$1,400.00)	
2012 Oahu Meeting	(\$22,472.16)	(\$173,243.17)	
Misc.		(\$490.64)	
Marine Ornithology	(\$8,191.99)	(\$6,009.78)	
Postage	(\$106.00)	(\$145.61)	
Professional Fees	(\$575.00)	(\$1600.00)	3
Publications	(\$6,500.00)		
Student Travel		(\$4,000.00)	
State Taxes	(\$133.27)	(\$110.00)	
Federal Taxes	(\$6,618.68)		
World Seabird Union (WSU) products/ conference	(\$83,792.98)	(\$10,810.00)	4
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$138,679.06)</b>	<b>(\$201,073.89)</b>	
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$23,809.49</b>	<b>(\$22,733.52)</b>	<b>5</b>

**Notes:**

1. These are direct donations to the Endowment Fund. Note that life memberships should technically be counted towards endowment fund income, as should increases in the fund itself. This will be changed in future years.
2. Amount still owed by accounting organization from Long Beach meeting; this never was received.
3. Accounting and lawyer fees (related to Makaha).
4. Original \$60,000 for 2011/2012 was broken down into \$10,000 for publications (\$5,800 spent, remainder donated back to PSG from Elsevier); \$23,000 to WSC (\$12,000 for WSC "seed money"), none spent; \$10,000 to seabirds.net (\$5,000 spent, \$5,000 remaining); and \$17,000 for databases (none spent).
5. The net loss we are showing here is a result of the Makaha deposit not being returned.

# REPORTS OF PSG'S COMMITTEES FOR 2012

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PSG's committees support research, work on conservation, keep us in touch, and support members throughout the Pacific. Their reports contain information on field work, current issues, and committee participation. Contact information for committee coordinators (i.e., chairs) is near the back of this issue.

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## JAPANESE SEABIRD CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Motohiro Ito, Japan Seabird Conservation Committee Coordinator

The mandate of the Japanese Seabird Conservation Committee (JSCC) is to "monitor the status of listing petitions, research findings, and conservation issues for seabirds nesting in Japan, and to provide information to interested parties." The JSCC will also serve as a repository of technical advice. Below, I summarize JSCC activities in 2012 that have been provided by committee members.

### MEETINGS

The JSCC did not meet at the February 2012 PSG meeting at the Turtle Bay Resort in Oahu, Hawaii, because of low meeting turnout and conflicts with scheduling other meetings. The JSCC met at the February 2013 PSG meeting in Portland and will discuss the future of the committee.

### CO-COORDINATOR AND ANNUAL REPORT

To help organize future meetings, assist future PSG reports, and facilitate communications between Japanese and North American biologists, the committee requests that the PSG Chair should change the committee as follows: (1) assign Kuniko Otsuki and Kim Nelson as joint coordinators of this committee; and (2) require only one annual report from the committee. [Editor's note: both requests were approved.]

### SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

**Japanese Murrelets (Birojima):** In 2012, the Japanese Murrelet Population

Survey Team (JMPST) of the Japan Seabird Group (D. Whitworth, H. Carter, Y. Nakamura, M. Takeishi, S. Sato, K. Otsuki, and others) conducted the second year of spotlight surveys, at-sea captures, and nest searches of Japanese Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus wumizusume*) at Birojima, the largest colony in the world (Whitworth et al. 2012, Carter et al. 2013). Population size in 2012 was tentatively re-estimated at approximately 1200–1800 breeding pairs, similar to the previous estimate in 1994 of 3000 total birds. Baseline data for long-term monitoring using spotlight surveys were developed. In 2013, the JMPST will develop the first year of baseline data for a long-term nest monitoring program at Birojima, for measuring hatching success and timing of breeding.

#### **Japanese Murrelets (Eboshijima):**

In 2012, the JMPST assisted surveys at Eboshijima near Fukuoka. We hope to help M. Takeishi and H. Okabe develop a nest-monitoring program there.

**Japanese Murrelets (Kaminoseki):** Between 1 and 27 April 2012, Takeishi, Whitworth, and others conducted spotlight surveys of 9 nights at 10 uninhabited islands in this area (Takeishi et al. 2012a). Only few murrelets were observed. More surveys are needed to determine if local breeding occurs at islands in the Kaminoseki area. In 2013, the JMPST and North American biologists (Whitworth, J. Takekawa, and S. Newman) will assist the Nagashima Nature

Conservation Association in conducting a VHF radio telemetry project to examine habitat use of the Japanese Murrelet.

#### **Ancient Murrelets (Teuri Island):**

In 2012, M. Hasebe conducted spotlight surveys for Ancient Murrelets (*Synthliboramphus antiquus*) at Teuri Island and rediscovered a colony of a few hundred birds that had not been documented for many years. His paper will be published in March 2013.

#### **Kittlitz's Murrelets (Japan):**

Carter et al. (2011) summarized small numbers of occurrences of Kittlitz's Murrelets (*Brachyramphus brevirostris*) in Japan and southern Russia. This information is important for conservation efforts in Alaska and Russia.

### CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

**Common Murres:** Hasebe et al. (2012) provided an update on the status and conservation of the last remaining Common Murre (*Uria aalge*) colony in Japan. The population has declined from 8000 birds in 1963 to 19 birds in 2010. Social attraction efforts helped to retain breeding birds, but the fledgling rate was not improved due to avian predation. Control of avian predators is being considered.

**Japanese Murrelets (Kaminoseki):** In 2011–2012, the Japan Seabird Group and Pacific Seabird Group prepared a joint letter for the Japan Minister of Environment, with recommendations about the seabird surveys and potential



impacts of the planned Kaminoseki nuclear power plant on seabirds. On 21 March 2012, Y. Watanuki and K. Otsuki delivered the letter in person in Tokyo.

**Japanese Murrelets (Birojima):** Otsuki and R. Kubota (2012) summarized conservation and education to protect Japanese Murrelets at Birojima.

**Japanese Murrelets and Swinhoe's Storm-Petrels (Koyashima/Okinoshima):** In 2012, the JMPST (Takeishi, Okabe, Carter, Whitworth, Otsuki, and others) conducted surveys for Japanese Murrelets. They proposed rat eradication at Okinoshima and Koyashima to protect remnant breeding populations of Japanese Murrelets and Swinhoe's Storm-Petrels (*Oceanodroma monorhis*) (Takeishi et al. 2012b). In 2013, JMPST (Takeishi, Whitworth, G. Howald, others) will revisit the islands for more surveys and to develop eradication plans.

**Tufted Puffins:** Plans are underway to restore Tufted Puffin (*Fratercula cirrhata*) colonies damaged by rats near Hokkaido, and a workshop was held by the Etopirika Fund (a nonprofit organization) in January

2013. S. Kress was invited and suggested that rat eradication is the essential issue.

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## KITTLITZ'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

John Piatt, Coordinator

The Kittlitz's Murrelet Technical Committee (KMTC) was formed in 2008 to begin addressing concerns related to the status and conservation of this rare seabird. The Kittlitz's Murrelet (KIMU) is currently listed as a candidate under the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the KMTC is to: (1) act as a technical authority on the status, distribution, and life history of the KIMU; (2) identify, encourage, and facilitate research; (3) address conservation problems related to the KIMU; and (4) act as a liaison between research and management.

#### 2012 KMTC ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ISSUES, AND UPDATES

(1) The KMTC last met on 7 February 2012 in conjunction with the Pacific Seabird Group meeting at Turtle Bay, Hawaii. Twenty-three members participated (three over the phone). Meeting minutes are available on request.

(2) We learned that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reached a settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity and WildEarth Guardians in September 2011 that requires the Service

to review and address the needs of over 250 species, including the KIMU, on the 2010 Candidate Notice of Review. USFWS received funding in 2012 to begin the listing evaluation for KIMU and publish a decision regarding the legal status of the species in the U.S. Federal Register by September 30, 2013. The KIMU cannot remain a Candidate for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act; USFWS will either reach a finding that listing is "unwarranted," or it will publish a proposed rule on listing by this date.

(3) In an effort headed by the previous chair of the KMTC (Michelle Kissling), USFWS Region 7 in Alaska has been gathering all pertinent and available information on the biology and status of KIMU, in order to submit a Region 7 recommendation on listing to the USFWS Endangered Species Office. This internal decision was to be made in early February, and final documents will then be prepared to support the decision before it is passed on to Washington DC.

(4) As PSG had already sent a letter the Alaska Regional Director of USFWS in 2011, encouraging the agency to move

forward with the evaluation for listing of the KIMU under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, no further correspondence was deemed necessary in 2012, pending a decision by USFWS on listing.

(5) Therefore, most KMTC members have directed their efforts during the year, as individuals, at providing information they have recently compiled, analyzed, reported or published to USFWS Region 7 for consideration in the upcoming listing decision.

With the KIMU listing evaluation underway, the KMTC has been largely

inactive. At the next KMTC meeting in Portland, we will meet to (1) identify KIMU research projects currently underway, (2) consider future priorities for research and conservation, and pass these on to USFWS, (3) consider whether the KMTC is still needed in a "post-listing decision" environment, and, if so, (4) what role the KMTC should play in the coming year if the species is or is not listed.

I appreciate the opportunity to coordinate this committee on behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group.

## XANTUS'S MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Harry Carter and Shaye Wolf, Co-Coordiators

The mandate of the Xantus's Murrelet Technical Committee (XMTC) is to "monitor the federal listing petition, state status, research, and conservation issues; provide information to interested parties; and coordinate research and conservation in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada." The Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*) occurs at sea along western Baja California, California, Oregon, Washington, and south-central British Columbia; it breeds on islands off southern California and northwestern Baja California.

In 2012, the American Ornithologists' Union split Xantus's Murrelet into Scripps's Murrelet (*S. scrippsi*) and Guadalupe Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus*), based on genetic separation (Birt et al. 2012). Both species are being considered for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). We request that EXCO consider a corresponding name change for this committee to "Scripps's Murrelet and Guadalupe Murrelet Technical Committee." The mandate of the SGMTC would remain the same. [Editor's note: the name change was approved.]

Below we summarize XMTC activities in 2012, covering both the new species under the former name of Xantus's Murrelet.

### MEETINGS

The XMTC did not meet at the 2012 PSG Annual Meeting in Oahu, due to low attendance. We had hoped to organize a meeting in southern California in summer or fall 2012, but this did not happen. We will meet at the 2013 PSG meeting in Portland and will discuss when and where a meeting in California can be organized later in 2013.

### MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

The XMTC has been an active cooperator in the preparation of the Xantus's Murrelet Management and Restoration Plan, which will guide state and federal efforts to protect and restore Xantus's Murrelets at breeding islands in southern California and northwestern Baja California. This plan will fill an important gap, since California is not required to write a recovery plan. The Xantus's Murrelet is still a federal candidate for federal listing, so it receives no protection under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA). Preparation of the plan is being led by Humboldt State University (HSU), which obtained funding from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Several XMTC members are primary authors, and several organizations, universities, and agen-

cies in the US, Mexico and Canada are involved. This collaborative effort has been spearheaded through coordination and prompting of the XMTC. The document will be published as a CDFG report in both English and Spanish, and will be posted on CDFG and PSG websites.

In spring 2011, an incomplete review draft (Carter et al., in prep.) was circulated to the XMTC for comments. We are continuing to work on missing sections and will circulate a more final version to the committee for comments in 2013. We hope to have a final version as early as fall 2013, although Spanish translation may take longer.

### LISTING STATUS UNDER THE ESA

A federal listing priority number of 5 was retained for the Xantus's Murrelet in the 2012 Candidate Notice of Review. Under a settlement agreement with conservation organizations in 2011, the USFWS agreed to: (1) re-examine the status of 251 candidate species, including Xantus's Murrelet; and (2) by 30 September 2016, submit to the Federal Register either a Proposed Rule for the Xantus's Murrelet for endangered or threatened status, or finding of "not warranted" for such listing. It is likely that status review work will start in 2013 and be completed

## COMMITTEE REPORTS • “Xantus’s” Murrelet

in 2014, and that a decision on listing status will be made in 2015 or 2016. The XMTC expects to assist this process by: (1) continuing to provide updated information, so as to better assess current threats and restoration of this species in the US and Mexico; (2) completing the Management and Restoration Plan (see above); and (3) encouraging further publication of research on Xantus’s Murrelets.

The State of California officially listed the Xantus’s Murrelet as Threatened in December 2004; however, there is still no recovery plan or implementation schedule. Xantus’s Murrelets are listed as Endangered in Mexico; the species is not listed in Canada.

### WESTERN FOUNDATION OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY PUBLICATION

In 2005, PSG and the Canadian Wildlife Service hosted a symposium on Xantus’s Murrelets at PSG’s Portland meeting. A symposium proceeding was prepared for *Marine Ornithology* (Volume 33, number 2). However, several papers were not prepared in time for inclusion, and additional studies have been conducted since 2005. At the XMTC meeting in February 2013, we will discuss the preparation of another volume of papers on Xantus’s Murrelets for publication in the *Proceedings of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology*. Papers in this volume would greatly assist listing, management and conservation decisions in the near future.

### NEST MONITORING

In 2012, nest monitoring for measuring hatching success, timing of breeding, and population size changes was conducted at Santa Barbara Island, California by Laurie Harvey of the California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES). The work was funded by the Montrose Settlements Trustee Council (MSTC) and Channel Islands National Park (CINP).

Nest monitoring has not been conducted in Baja California since 2007. CIES monitoring at the Coronado Islands was funded by Chevron, when

the company proposed to build a liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal there; that plan has since been withdrawn. Mexican groups and researchers have not had sufficient funds for monitoring at the San Benito Islands. A long-term monitoring program is needed in northwestern Baja California.

### SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

In 2012, surveys for Scripps’s and Guadalupe Murrelets were conducted at: (1) Santa Barbara Island, by Harvey and others (CIES), with funding from the MSTC and CINP; (2) San Clemente Island, by Darrell Whitworth, Harry Carter, and Frank Gress (CIES), with funding from the U.S. Navy (USN); and (3) Santa Catalina Island, by Whitworth, Carter, Tyler Dvorak, Linda Farley, and Julie King (CIES and Catalina Island Conservancy), with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Surveys included nest searches in all accessible coastal areas; nocturnal spotlight surveys, for estimating population size and changes; and nocturnal at-sea captures using the night-lighting technique, to examine status of birds in at-sea congregations.

### RESTORATION

Black rats (*Rattus rattus*) were eradicated from Anacapa Island in 2001–02 (Island Conservation and CINP), with funding by the American Trader Trustee Council (Howald et al. 2005). Annual nest monitoring by HSU and CIES from 2000 to 2010 has shown that numbers of nests found in monitored areas has grown substantially, and hatching success has been high. However, most of the upper island has not yet been reused for nesting, based on fall 2009 surveys (Whitworth et al. 2012).

Native plant restoration was begun by Harvey and others on Santa Barbara Island in 2007. This project has since expanded greatly and will continue for many years, under CIES and CINP; funding is from the MSTC (Harvey and Barnes 2009, unpubl. data).

### CONSERVATION ISSUES

**Introduced mammals**—At most islands with breeding Xantus’s

Murrelets, introduced mammals have been eradicated over the past 30 years. Efforts to control cats are continuing at the south end of Guadalupe Island and at San Clemente Island. Several proposals to fund cat eradication at Guadalupe Island have been prepared but not yet funded. D.K. Garcelon of the Institute for Wildlife Studies plans to conduct local trapping for black rats around murrelet nesting areas at San Clemente Island, with funding from the USN. Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECI) is examining options for eradicating a non-native *Peromyscus* species that was introduced to West San Benito Island in 2007. No efforts to remove introduced rats or cats are underway at Cedros and Santa Catalina Islands; most murrelets likely breed in areas where introduced mammals are not currently found.

**Artificial lights at night**—Few efforts have been made to address potential impacts from bright lights near breeding colonies (i.e., squid fishing lights, aquaculture facilities, anchored vessels, etc.). In 2012, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) funded a study to conduct visual and radar surveys for Xantus’s Murrelets in spring, summer, and fall at one oil platform near Anacapa Island. The goals were (1) to evaluate the extent to which Xantus’s Murrelets interact with bright lights of offshore oil platforms off the coast of southern California, and (2) to determine if important rafting and foraging areas exist near offshore platforms (BOEM 2012). The results of this study are forthcoming.

Seabird restoration plans for seven islands off the Pacific coast of Baja California funded by the MSTC and Luckenbach Trustee Council identified the reduction of bright artificial lights as a priority (<http://www.fws.gov/cno/press/release.cfm?rid=315>). Implementation will begin in 2013 (<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=58794&inline=true>).

**LNG Proposals**—The XMTC has been following proposals for the construction of LNG terminals near XAMU colonies in the CINP. Most of these projects have been terminated, with the



## COMMITTEE REPORTS • “Xantus’s” Murrelet

exception of Esperanza Energy’s Port Esperanza, which is located approximately 15 miles seaward of the Port of Long Beach; this project is currently on hold.

**Offshore Alternative Energy Development**—A large suite of renewable offshore ocean energy projects is being considered for the Pacific Coast, including offshore wind energy, wave energy, ocean current energy, offshore solar energy, and hydrogen generation. All these have the potential for negative impacts on the Xantus’s Murrelet and other seabirds. In 2007, BOEM issued its *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Energy Development and Production and Alternate Use of Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf*. At present a collaborative working group, the Renewable Ocean Energy Action Coordination Team, is evaluating the potential for renewable energy development off the West Coast and is developing the planning and regulatory structure for these developments. This team is comprised of California, Oregon, and Washington (as part of West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health), BOEM, and the federal agencies Department of Energy, Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and others. Although BOEM has received indications of interest in renewable energy projects on the outer continental shelf off of Washington, Oregon, and California, no lease requests have been received (<http://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-Program/State-Activities/California-and-Washington.aspx>).

The XMTC has been monitoring opportunities to provide public comments on offshore renewable energy project proposals, but as mentioned above, there have not yet been such opportunities.

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## MARBLED MURRELET TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

William Ritchie and Dave Huber, Co-Coordiators

The Marbled Murrelet Technical Committee (MMTC) has been a longstanding committee of the Pacific Seabird Group. Its roles are to: (1) act as a technical authority about the status, distribution, and life history of the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*); (2) identify, encourage, and facilitate research; (3) address conservation problems related to the Marbled Murrelet; and (4) act as a liaison between research and management.

### MMTC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The full committee met twice in 2012, on 2 February 2nd in Portland, Oregon, and on 7 February in conjunction with the PSG meeting on Oahu, Hawai’i.
- An interdisciplinary team, including members of the MMTC, has been working since January 2012 to develop a radar survey protocol for pre-construction monitoring at pro-

posed wind energy projects. They have developed a draft document. Statistical analyses are underway, and a draft protocol should be available for peer review early this year.

- In 2002, MMTC wrote a letter providing general guidance on when and how tree climbing should be used to identify suitable murrelet nest trees. The Committee has now completed a standardized training protocol to certify climbers. A training session

## COMMITTEE REPORTS • Marbled Murrelet

will be held in autumn 2013, pending available funding and approval of the protocol by EXCO.

- The MMTC Inland Survey Protocol (ISP) Working Group continued its revisions and updates of the survey protocol and training curricula. A working draft has been prepared and reviewed. We plan to have a final revised ISP available for EXCO review by February 2013.
- Committee membership totaled 44 in 2012. Although non-member contacts remained fairly consistent, there was a reduction in the number of PSG members on the MMTC. Losses from Alaska and Washington were somewhat offset by slight increases from California and Oregon. Membership in 2012 was: Alaska, 5; British Columbia, 6; Washington, 10; Oregon, 9; California, 12; other, 2.

### IMPORTANT UPDATES

- Programs for inland audiovisual surveys, corvid research and management, new habitat mapping, and outreach and litter control have continued or expanded at state parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Although survey detection levels show a downward trend, and the population may be supported largely due to emigration, it appears to be more robust than the 2009 estimate.
- The Sempivirens Fund has developed a regional conservation plan for Marbled Murrelets in the Santa Cruz Mountains.
- Marbled Murrelet at-sea population monitoring continued as part of the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Effectiveness Monitoring Program. An overall population estimate of 16,700 birds in the NWFP survey area was derived from coastal surveys conducted in 2010, but large confidence intervals persist. A declining trend is evident during the years 2001 to 2010 in both the 5-zone area and in Zones 1 and 2 (Washington). The estimated mean rate of annual decline during the period was 3.7% (95% confidence interval -2.7 to -4.8%), which is equivalent to a total population decline over this period of about 29 percent. At-sea monitoring will continue in 2013, but may need to be curtailed if funding is reduced in subsequent years.
- A model developed for the NWFP terrestrial habitat monitoring component has shown that 64% (2.4 million ac, or 960,000 ha) of higher-suitability Marbled Murrelet habitat is on federal lands. The model examined changes in available habitat between 1994–1996 and 2006–2007. The trend shows an overall loss of

habitat of 7–13%. Federal lands saw a 3% loss, whereas private lands showed a 30% loss in habitat. Much of the loss was due to timber harvest and fire. Reports summarizing the NWFP monitoring activities from 2000–2011 are available at [www.reo.gov/monitoring](http://www.reo.gov/monitoring)

- Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Audubon Society of Portland filed a notice of intent to sue the state of Oregon over harmful clear-cutting practices in the Elliott, Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. Proposed harvests would purportedly result in take of Marbled Murrelets and their nesting habitat. The state subsequently suspended logging, pending the outcome of the lawsuit. MMTC has not formally commented on this action.

### FUTURE MMTC ACTIONS AND WORK ITEMS:

- MMTC members will assist an interdisciplinary team in completing the radar survey protocol.
- MMTC members will continue working on revisions to the Inland Survey Protocol.
- William Ritchie will be relinquishing his role as MMTC. Kim Nelson has accepted appointment as co-coordinator; Dave Huber will continue to serve the other co-coordinator.

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## CRAIG S. HARRISON CONSERVATION FUND (SMALL GRANTS)

Verena Gill

This report covers January 2012 to January 2013. The committee has added several new members over the past year. We lost one—Malcolm Coulter, who passed away in January 2013. The Committee is now Verena Gill (Chair), Craig Harrison, Bill Henry, Dave Duffy, Doug Forsell, Ken Morgan, Louise Blight,

Mark Rauzon, Melanie Steinkamp, Scott Hall, and Shannon Fitzgerald.

We received eight inquiries for funding. Of those, one was funded; two are still in the process of submitting a full proposal; three were denied as being outside our scope (not in the Pacific, or seabird); and two were rejected based

on content.

The proposal that we funded was by Andres Baquero and Cristina Miranda of Ecuador (the original principal investigator was Peter Rodriguez): Waved Albatross Conservation in Ecuador. The project was fully funded at \$2000 and will be implemented in 2013.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS • Small Grants

### FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

As of 6 Jan 2013, the Fund total was \$9349.18. The total has been increasing, because people are hitting the “donate” button on the Annual Meeting web site as they register for the meeting.

Craig Harrison kindly donated \$500 from The Wildlife Society. This is an honorarium that otherwise would have

gone to him for his participation in their plenary session entitled “The Endangered Species Act at Age 40.”

We recently received a grant of \$10,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Thanks to Bill Henry and Louise Blight for submitting the proposal!

Since its inception in 2006, the Fund has had an inflow of \$37,864.18 and an outflow of \$29,355 (current as of 6 Jan 2013).

The bottom line is that we are in good financial shape at the current time. We are eager to find more solid projects to fund. To that end, we will be working on outreach.

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## PSG LISTSERV

Verena Gill

The Listserv has 757 members as of 6 February 2013. That is up from 683 members a year ago. The meeting in Portland has generated a large number of new members in recent weeks.

The number of Listserv members exceeds the number of PSG members for several reasons: (1) some people have a couple of e-mail accounts; (2)

some people from developing countries have been signed up for free; (3) some have slipped through the cracks, and have continued to be on the Listserv despite no longer being PSG members.

I am continuing my effort to transfer the Listserv from sponsorship by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list to an independent server. The limitation

is time (mine!)—so if anyone wants to volunteer to make the process move faster, I would be more than happy for the help. Limitations with some of the servers I have already looked at include number of members (we are quite large) and cost (some are based on software that we would have to pay for).

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## CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Melanie Steinkamp, John Piatt, and Jessica Hardesty

The Corresponding Members Committee provides PSG membership to researchers and conservationists in developing countries. Committee members presently include Melanie Steinkamp, John Piatt, and Jessica Hardesty. To retain Corresponding Membership, recipients are asked to provide a brief report on research or conservation in their area at least every three years for publication in *Pacific Seabirds*. In the future, we plan to ask for reports more frequently. Corresponding Members also facilitate other communication, such as the Indian Ocean Seabird Group Newsletter

that has periodically been posted on the PSG Listserv.

A total of 16 Corresponding Memberships are allotted by PSG. We presently have eight Corresponding Members representing Chile, China, Colombia (2), Fiji, Ecuador, the Indian Ocean, and Peru. We can make those names available upon request.

### CHANGES OVER THE PAST YEAR

The long-serving previous chair of the Corresponding Membership Committee, Malcolm Coulter, passed away in early January 2013. We honor his dedication to the Committee, which he led for

years, seeking out deserving recipients with earnest enthusiasm. Malcolm's efforts resulted in a PSG that connects to a diversity of researchers in developing countries.

The Committee endorsed one new member in 2012. We welcome Cristián G. Suazo, Laboratorio de Ecología, Departamento de Ciencias Básicas, Universidad de Los Lagos, Chile. Cristián will soon contribute a summary of his work over the past years to *Pacific Seabirds*.

We encourage suggestions for additional Corresponding Members. Contact: Melanie Steinkamp, [Melanie\\_Steinkamp@fws.gov](mailto:Melanie_Steinkamp@fws.gov)

## SEABIRD MONITORING COMMITTEE

Scott A. Hatch, Coordinator

As Committee Coordinator, I devoted approximately one month during 2012 to making code revisions in the Pacific Seabird Monitoring Database (PSMD) web application. The purpose is to make it serve as a pilot version of a World Seabird Monitoring Database (WSMD). The changes will accommodate the enlarged geographic and taxonomic scopes required of a world database, implement greater flexibility

in managing data ownership and user permissions, and support a larger choice of internet browsers (PSMD is currently limited to Internet Explorer).

Code changes are extensive, and I do not expect them to be completed until sometime in 2013 or 2014. At that time a new application will be launched on Seabirds.net, followed by efforts from committee members to solicit entry of new data and updates for existing time

series. It is anticipated that web hosting service of the PSMD (and its WSMD successor) will be changed in early 2013; the database will move from the current server, which is administered by the U.S. Geological Survey (<http://seabirds.usgs.gov>), to a commercial service provider.

[*Editor's note:* For a map of current WSMD regions and their respective committee members, see *Pacific Seabirds* 39(1):29.]

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## OTHER REPORTS TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2012

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These reports are from the editors of our two journals, and from two organizations of which PSG is a member.

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### *PACIFIC SEABIRDS*

Vivian Mendenhall, Editor

#### ISSUES OF *PACIFIC SEABIRDS* FOR 2012:

- Spring 2012, Volume 39, number 1 (published June 2012). Three hundred copies were printed, for \$1,665.18; 285 copies were mailed—201 to US addresses for \$126.14, and 84 to non-US addresses for \$384.63. In addition, a PDF of the final layout, for posting on PSG's website, cost \$15.
- Fall 2012, Volume 39, number 2 (published February 2013). Three hundred fifty copies were printed, for \$2,554.40; 146 copies were mailed—103 to US addresses for \$238.96, and 38 to non-US addresses for \$220.35.

#### REGIONAL REPORTS

For the first time, Regional Reports in the Fall 2012 issue represent the work of PSGers around the globe (almost). Steffen Oppel, the Europe-Africa representative, bravely volunteered to provide a report for his region. Thank you, Steffen!

The Editor (and PSG) are grateful to the Regional Representatives for compiling the reports each fall; it's a big job. There has been a problem, however: some Regional Reps did not submit their reports anywhere near the deadline.

The deadline for the Fall issue of *Pacific Seabirds* is October 1, as approved by EXCO in February 2012. I reminded

to the Regional Reps in August. However, no Regional Reports were received by the deadline; they arrived in October and November. One person admitted that he/she hadn't requested information from members until late October.

In the interests of getting *Pacific Seabirds* out on time, I do need to get the Regional Reports fairly close to the deadline. Almost all documents have to be edited, which takes time. A few examples:

- Adding items that are missing, such as scientific names, definitions of acronyms, and affiliations of members
- Getting graphics to work in the layout program; sometimes I have to request another format



## OTHER REPORTS TO EXCO • *Pacific Seabirds*

- Rearranging information among reports (so the principal accounts are in the regions where work was carried out)
- Reconciling a few duplicate accounts of the same work
- Checking facts; if something seems ambiguous or confusing to the editor, it may be the same for the reader

I realize there may have been confusion over the deadline and its firmness. EXCO has suggested that I should remind all Regional Representatives two months ahead the March and October deadlines. That should allow time for the

reps to request submissions from their members, and—if that's done early—to compile the reports in plenty of time.

There can be legitimate reasons for missing a deadline, of course. Please write me about any problems (*before* the deadline). However, EXCO has stated that I should not accept late submissions, if that would delay publication. Late items can always be published in the following issue if necessary.

Some representatives have complained that their members don't respond to their request for information. Everyone is busy, and they may be in the field.

Please remind each non-responder a few times (via a personal message to each, not a blanket email). I understand the problem—as editor, I also have to remind contributors . . .

Another note: one Regional Representative should assist with initial editing of the reports. This duty rotates among the representatives; so far, most have done it once. But there are a few who have not responded to suggestions that you volunteer for this job (you know who you are). Please consider stepping up to help.

And thank you again to all Regional Representatives for your hard work!

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## MARINE ORNITHOLOGY

Tony Gaston, Managing Editor/Editor-in-Chief

### JOURNAL ADMINISTRATION

The search committee for a new Editor-in-Chief was active in the early part of 2012 and we succeeded in obtaining the services of David Ainley, who has agreed to take over the position of Editor-in-Chief, initially for three years (the 2013-2015 volume years). As everyone will be aware, Dave is one of the most respected seabird biologists in the world and his name at the head of the journal will surely secure added respect and esteem for *Marine Ornithology*. As of now, all papers are being routed to him. I am continuing to deal with the backlog of papers being processed from earlier submissions. During 2013 there will be a gradual transfer of responsibility. Alan Burger has agreed to act as backup in the event that both David and I are in the field simultaneously. That should ensure that we deal with incoming papers in a more timely fashion than in the past.

I propose to continue as Managing Editor, the role I fulfilled before we switched to the current Editorial Board system. That means I shall continue to deal with the Technical Editor, Carolyn Brown, and the layout team, Reber Creative, and probably shall continue to be the point of contact for our webmaster, Ben Saenz. The contact email address for the journal has been changed from its present location with Environment Canada (my employer), to: Editor.marine.ornithology@gmail.com

### JOURNAL FINANCES

To inform the Executive Council (EXCO) better about the finances of the journal, I prepared Table 1 showing income and expenditure for the past eight years. For once we can give a more or less up-to-date statement, as the 2012 volume year was completed on time, although the invoice for layout of the last

issue is still pending. The much higher than usual expenditure in 2012 resulted from some very late invoices from previous years, not from greater expenses on the 2012 volume. PSG grants amounted to about \$2700 annually, or 22% of total revenue/expenditures over the past eight years.

I have indicated the years in which PSG symposia were published—three out of the last eight. We would welcome future symposia.

I envisage that the size of requests to PSG for financial assistance may increase over the next few years if, as seems likely, we receive increasing numbers of publishable papers. I think that we probably need an additional \$1000 for every 40-50 extra pages published. I would think that soon we might want to go to 3 issues annually, in which case we can hope to publish 250 pages/year, compared to the current about 160 pages/year.

## OTHER REPORTS TO EXCO • *Marine Ornithology*

I would like to see one PSG symposium issue annually, along with two issues of contributed papers. That would create the right balance. In addition, we are working to allow “publish on acceptance”—a feature that would make the journal more attractive to those who are in a rush to see their work in print.

In a recent round robin with the Associate Editors, most people thought that we should become more independent, by increasing subscriptions and page charges, but I am less certain about that. Now that I have handed over my editorial duties to David, I hope to apply myself a little more to promoting the journal and thinking about finances.

2012 was the first year in which we actually produced both issues of *Marine Ornithology* in the target months (May, November). This was partly accomplished by postponing several papers that really should have been included in Issue 2, but which the Editor-in-Chief just could not get round to in time. Things were delayed somewhat when the Editor-in-Chief was out of contact for nearly ten weeks over the summer. However, I am firming up my resolve to keep on a schedule, now that we have properly caught up; as of this writing (April 2013) we are about to produce the first issue of 2013, which is thicker, to make up for the thinner issues in 2012. Also in 2013, we will publish a “Special Issue” (in press right now) for a lengthy, in-depth review of the status of the Black-capped Petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), so there will be three issues in 2013. The petrel monograph will be fully funded by the authors.

Financially, we are not doing as well as I would like, because the Canadian dollar continues to bob along roughly at par with the US dollar. Given that all the financial calculations for the journal originally were based on a Canadian dollar worth US\$0.80, this is a significant problem. In addition, although subscriptions are holding up fairly well, there is a gradual attrition, with several institutions dropping out in the last 12 months. It is hard to blame them when we are providing it for free on the web.

Personal subscriptions, at \$40, do not really help, as that cost only covers printing and postage, with nothing left for layout and editing. The likelihood of getting sufficient subscribers to qualify for a volume discount is very small, I think. We may need to consider dropping the print version at some point.

Page charges are making up some of the gap, but I needed an infusion of \$4000 from PSG this year; and the shortfall for next year, unless we get lucky, will probably be similar. Provided that the PSG is willing to carry the costs indefinitely, there is no problem, but I feel that we could generate more revenue than we are. I may look at increasing Institutional subscriptions to \$100 for 2014, and perhaps increasing page charges to \$40/page. For the average 8-page paper that only means \$80 more.

I would really appreciate it if members of the PSG would take some time to look at recent issues on the web and provide me with any feedback you have on style, format, content, etc. Your thoughts on the issue of funding would be welcome. Also, I invite everyone to

provide us with Forum pieces, which seem to have petered out in recent years. Perhaps I should follow the lead of the editors of *Avian Conservation and Ecology* and have David and me write them all ourselves; or maybe we should do like *Ibis* and invite some senior ornithologist to comment on one of the current papers, as a sort of teaser. Again, your thoughts on any of this would be welcome.

Finally, I should say that, despite numerous annoyances, slip-ups and downright pieces of stupidity, I have enjoyed working as Editor for *Marine Ornithology*, and I look on the product, flawed as it sometimes is, as one of my better achievements from a lifetime working in the scientific trenches. I hope that I can continue to make a useful contribution and that the journal can continue to improve and expand as a major outlet for publishing on marine birds.

Best wishes to everyone for 2013.

[This report is closely based on the one presented to EXCO in February 2013, but has been slightly modified and updated by the author.]

TABLE 1. Income and expenditures for *Marine Ornithology*, 2005-2012, including financial support by PSG.

Balance on 1 Jan 2005	\$7,731.26			
Volume year	Income	Expenses	PSG financial contribution	PSG contribution of papers
2005	\$9,042.53	\$12,867.35	\$4,200.00	PSG symposium
2006	\$16,979.87	\$9,663.29	\$4,065.00	
2007	\$6,157.59	\$15,304.08	\$0.00	
2008	\$17,296.25	\$11,990.19	\$6,000.00	
2009	\$10,569.07	\$13,103.64	\$0.00	PSG symposium
2010	\$7,256.40	\$8,564.51	\$0.00	
2011	\$14,223.15	\$9,823.53	\$0.00	PSG symposium
2012	\$15,426.22	\$20,618.33	\$7,850.00	
Totals	\$104,682.34	\$101,934.92	\$22,115.00	
Balance on 31 Dec 2012	\$2,747.42			
Mean annual contribution from PSG			\$2,764.38	
Mean annual cost			\$12,741.87	
PSG'S contribution as % of total income			22%	

## ORNITHOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Patricia Baird, Board Member, Ornithological Council

The Ornithological Council (OC) is a group of ornithological societies, including PSG. It “goes to bat” for researchers, banders, and others who work with birds, especially in their efforts to meet government requirements. The OC’s website, <http://ornithologyexchange.org>, carries news and helpful articles. PSG is represented on OC’s board by Patricia Baird and Doug Forsell; its hardworking executive director is Ellen Paul. Following are some of OC’s activities during 1 July through 31 December 2012, from a semiannual report posted on Ornithology Exchange.

### PERMITS FOR BANDING AND RESEARCH

The OC helped many researchers and managers obtain permits under federal laws—Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), import and export permits, etc.

- The OC offered a clinic on permits at the North American Ornithological Congress in Vancouver in August 2012.
- A guide to effective permit applications will be published soon by OC on Ornithological Exchange, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Division of Migratory Bird Management.
- The guide to Canadian research permits is in final revision and will soon be posted on BIRDNET (<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET>).
- The OC and the North American Banding Council are urging the Bird Banding Laboratory to reconsider its new policy of rejecting applications for some banding permits, those for which the lab thinks it might lack sufficient resources in coming years. Publication of the proposed regulations has been postponed, and the OC is awaiting comments from researchers, ornithologists, and banders.
- The OC, the North American Banding Council, and 3 regional banding organizations began efforts to create a database of experienced banders who would be willing to train others.
- The OC and partner societies are requesting that the USFWS ease

its restrictions and requirements for importing scientific specimens, including requirements for permits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

### ANIMAL WELFARE

- The OC and the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) continued efforts to improve the oversight of research in wildlife biology. They developed a model protocol for use by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, which are required by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to review animal research plans.
- The National Science Foundation (NSF) has recognized *Guidelines to the Use of Wild Birds in Research*, as well as similar guidelines issued by other taxonomic societies. OC and other taxonomic societies (for mammals, fish, and herpetofauna) provided important input. NSF will use the guidelines in assessing wildlife research proposals funded by the agency.
- The OC and ASM have completed a training module on compliance with the Animal Welfare Act in the context of wildlife biology. It was prepared for CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative), an organization that provides research ethics education online ([www.citiprogram.org](http://www.citiprogram.org)). A webinar on AWA compliance by wildlife biologists will be given by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, in

collaboration with OC and ASM.

- The OC and ASM have prepared answers to frequently asked questions regarding compliance with the Animal Welfare Act by wildlife biologists. The list is under review; it will be used by the Federal Demonstration Partnership, an association of Federal agencies, academic research institutions, and research policy organizations that work to streamline the administration of federally sponsored research.
- The OC and ASM have issued an RFP for a study on thoracic compression to determine loss of consciousness in order to demonstrate that this method is as humane as other methods of euthanasia approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Results will be submitted to them for reconsideration of its stance.

### SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH, CONSERVATION, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

- On 6 March 2013, the US’s Office of Government Ethics stated that government employees may serve on the boards of nonprofit organizations. A 17-year-old regulation had prevented federal employees from serving on nonprofit boards under some circumstances. The OC’s Ellen Paul led the successful effort to have this policy reversed. [More information is in “PSG News.”]
- The OC has concluded the first year of a pilot phase for its small grants program. Over 75 proposals were submitted, half from Central and



## OTHER REPORTS TO EXCO • Ornithological Council

South America and the Caribbean. Seventy proposals were reviewed, of which 25 were highly rated. Three proposals were funded:

- o Ecology of endangered Vinea-ceous Parrots [*Amazona vinacea*] and other cavity-nesting birds in the Atlantic forest biodiversity hotspot: Conserving an interspecific “Nest Web” in a landscape of small farms (Kristina Cockle,

Argentina)

- o Habitat Use and Dispersal by Juvenile and Adult Yellow-naped Amazons (*Amazona auropalliata*) in Nicaragua’s Paso del Istmo Biological Corridor (Martín Lezama-López, Nicaragua)
- o Assessing the connectivity of the St. Lucian White-breasted Thrasher (*Ramphocinclus brachyurus*) subpopulations (Jennifer Mortensen, Massachusetts,

USA, for work in Santa Lucia, Caribbean)

- The OC proposed two joint projects to the Neotropical Ornithological Society: (1) development of a scientific position paper on the impact of hummingbird feeders on birds and their role as pollinators; (2) development of a model permit regulation system for countries in the Neotropics.

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## REPORT ON STATUS OF FUNDS ALLOCATED BY PSG’S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO THE WORLD SEABIRD UNION DURING 2012

David Irons and John Croxall, 28 January 2013

### EXCO meeting of February 2012:

Various motions were passed to fund activities of the world Seabird Union (WSU). Following is a brief update on the expenditure of these funds.

#### Item 1: \$10K for Publications—

EXCO approved \$5000 each for publication of WSC symposia in *Marine Ecology Progress Series* (MEPS) and *Biological Conservation*. \$5800 of the \$10,000 for publications was spent. \$5000 was paid to MEPS. Elsevier “donated” their open-access fee (\$3000) for the symposium published there. However, only \$800 of the allotted \$5000 was used to reimburse a few authors for figure costs in *Biological Conservation*. Most other authors did not claim reimbursement for their figure costs. The two symposia have been published. No additional funds are needed.

#### Item 2: \$23K into escrow fund—

EXCO approved commitment by PSG of \$23,000 to the PSG general fund, with allocation of a minimum of \$12,000 as

a seed fund for a future World Seabird Conference, contingent on a proposal being accepted by EXCO.

A call for Expression of Interest to host a second WSC was distributed in Fall 2012; an expression of interest was received in January 2013, and discussions are ongoing regarding development of a full proposal. Therefore the WSU has not submitted a proposal to PSG for these funds, but anticipates doing so during the 2013 calendar year.

#### Item 3: \$10K for seabirds.net—

EXCO approved funding of two contracts of up to \$5,000 each with Dragonfly Limited (Wellington, New Zealand) to upgrade seabirds.net, and to develop features such as a personnel database and an online bibliography. The upgrade consisted primarily of new software, a new look, the Seabird Information Network, Facebook and Twitter, and was completed in September 2012. The development of a personnel database and an online bibliography are underway and nearing completion. WSU expects to

invoice PSG for that \$5000 during the calendar year.

#### Item 4: \$17K for databases—

EXCO decided that PSG will entertain a detailed proposal worth up to \$17,000 for a global seabird colony register, with population trend and productivity indices.

### EXCO meeting of October 2012 (by teleconference):

WSU (through Pat Jodice) submitted a proposal for \$17,000 to support the development of a global seabird database. EXCO approved the proposal, contingent on WSU accepting a completion date of December 31, 2014.

The proposal contained three components—linking of existing databases, online data entry by worldwide database managers, and remote entry of data from the literature (for areas without a seabird organization). Work is underway on these projects; following is the current status of the various components. WSU has not yet invoiced PSG for any of the funds.



## OTHER REPORTS TO EXCO • Status of WSU projects funded by PSG

### 1. Linking existing databases

**1.1 BirdLife Marine IBA database**—Linkage to this database (comprising some 2000 sites worldwide) has been agreed on, and work has begun ensure compatibility with the World Seabird Union's Global Colony Register. Expected completion date: 30 September 2013.

**1.2 Caribbean, Bermuda and West Indies**—The existing inventory includes detailed data for the vast majority of seabird breeding sites (over 700 in total) for all 25 nations in the region under consideration. Agreement has been made, and work has begun on linkages between this database and the Global Seabird Colony Register. Expected completion date: 30 April 2013.

**1.3 Southern Africa**—The South African Ministry of the Environment maintains a database relating to seabird colonies in South Africa and Namibia. The African Seabird Group is cooperating to facilitate this work. Access to appropriate parts of these data has been agreed on, and data checking and

reformatting will begin soon. Expected completion date: 31 October 2013.

**2. Remote data entry by seabird organizations and holders of seabird site data.** (Some may also be compiling national/regional databases for themselves.)

**2.1 Australia**—The Australasian Seabird Group has agreed to enter the data, starting with Victoria (Peter Dann). Work has not yet begun.

**2.2 Western Indian Ocean**—The Indian Ocean Seabird Group (Matthieu Le Corre) has agreed to enter data for this area. We are in discussions on who will actually enter the data.

**2.3 New Zealand**—Contact has been made with New Zealand Forest & Bird, but discussions have not yet taken place.

**2.4 South Pacific**—As part of their effort to identify Important Bird Areas, BirdLife International developed a comprehensive database for tropical Pacific Islands, using published literature and

unpublished reports. In December 2012, BirdLife submitted a crosswalk of their database to Axiom Consulting and Design. Axiom will add the tropical Pacific colony data to the Global Seabird Colony Register in April 2013

**3. Remote data entry from published literature**, for areas lacking any seabird organization. Sources for these data are principally review articles by Croxall, supplemented by more recent published data where available.

**3.1 Iran, Arabia**—Over 100 sites and 2000 species/site entries

**3.2 Indonesia**—About 50 sites and 500 species/site entries

**3.3 China**—About 50 sites and 600 species/site entries

**3.4 Malaysia**—About 30 sites and 500 species/site entries

BirdLife has agreed to review, evaluate, and enter these data into the Global Seabird Colony Register. Discussions are underway on whom to hire for this project, but work has not begun yet.

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

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The Pacific Seabird Group's board of directors, the Executive Council (EXCO), meets at each Annual Meeting and once or twice a year via conference call. Minutes are available after they are approved at the next meeting: a summary in *Pacific Seabirds*, and the full text on PSG's website. The summary for February 2012 is still in preparation, but the full Minutes are available. All PSG members are welcome to attend EXCO meetings.

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## SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

27 February 2012, by Conference Call

This EXCO meeting was a closed ("executive") session because it dealt in part with personnel matters. The summary was provided to the membership by Chair Kim Rivera and posted on PSG's website (the version below is slightly edited).

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE MINUTES:

- Ron LeValley took a leave of absence as Treasurer and was replaced by Lindsay Young
- A temporary Financial Committee was set up to deal with the change-over of treasurers
- PSG will obtain a credit card for EXCO-approved expenditures
- The treasurer will start using the accounting program QuickBooks, and will be assisted by a bookkeeper
- Endowment Fund disbursements will require signatures of two fund trustees
- A new archive of PSG's financial and other records will be set up in FTP or "cloud" storage, so they'll be available to anyone in EXCO
- An audit of PSG's books will be considered

### SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES

Dear PSG Membership:

I'd like to take this opportunity to update you on recent PSG Executive Council (EXCO) activities in response to Ron LeValley's request on February 26 [2012] for a leave of absence from the positions of PSG Treasurer and as a member of EXCO. This request was granted. . . .

### EXCO AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Appointed Lindsay Young as the Interim Treasurer for a minimum of one year, effective February 27, 2012.

2. Formed a Financial Committee, composed of Lindsay Young, Kenneth Briggs (a current PSG Endowment Fund Trustee), and Kim Rivera, of a term not to exceed six months. The Financial Committee is granted authority to act on EXCO's behalf to take actions, which include but are not limited to: apply for a PSG credit card, obtain a PO Box for PSG Treasurer activities, and implement tracking of PSG's financial activities

using QuickBooks accounting software, with the assistance of an accountant. The Financial Committee has authority to spend up to a maximum of \$2,000 for these purposes; if the Committee needs to spend more than that, they will need to consult with EXCO.

3. Opening a new General Fund Account and transferring funds from the previous PSG account.

4. Lindsay Young (Interim Treasurer) will replace Ron LeValley as a Trustee for the Endowment Fund Account. Mechanisms are being put into place that any financial transactions within that account will require the signatures of two Trustees.

5. PSG's financial records and other pertinent PSG EXCO-related files will be placed on a password-protected site for access by the appropriate persons.

6. Engage a bookkeeper/accountant for assistance with PSG financial records.

7. Research an appropriate financial audit of PSG financial records. (These latter two activities have been discussed by EXCO for the last several years as a necessary undertaking.)

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## SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

2 October 2012, by Conference Call

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE MINUTES:

- EXCO approved a grant to the World Seabird Union
- An audit of PSG'S books will take place

- PSG's membership records and renewals will be automated
- A training session for EXCO on its responsibilities and duties was approved.

### PSG ADMINISTRATION

The minutes of the Executive Council (EXCO) conference call on 15 May 2012 were approved unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES • 2 October 2012

### **TREASURER'S REPORT (Lindsay Young)**

PSG's books are in order. The fiscal year ended on 30 September 2012 and we are prepared to submit our taxes on time. The Endowment Fund has increased by \$17,000 over the last year, and there is currently \$8500 in the Conservation Fund.

The Amazon.com service we were using to generate funds for the Conservation Fund will be up and running again in the next couple of weeks.

### **FINANCIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE (Lindsay Young) Financial audit**

There are two options for the audit: a review, in which the auditor does not form an opinion on the books, but will highlight things that might look suspicious (cost \$3,000–\$5,000); and a “yellow-book audit,” in which the auditor provides an opinion on whether or not fraud has occurred (cost \$15,000–\$20,000).

### **Extension of time for Financial Committee**

The committee was initially formed (in February 2012) for a period of six months. That time frame has been reached, but they need until the February 2013 meeting in Portland to complete the audit work.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Membership renewal period**

Currently our membership period is the calendar year, which does not match our fiscal year. This proposal is to have membership run the same as the fiscal year. The change would require a Bylaws amendment, so it would not take effect until approved by the membership in PSG's 2013 election.

#### **Automation of membership renewals**

An automated membership renewal service would allow members to track their own membership, instead of needing to correspond with the secretary about their status. The web-based service would cost about \$700–\$750 per year.

### **ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES**

#### **Local Committee (Holly Freifeld)**

The Local Committee (LOCO) for the 2013 meeting in Portland is on tar-

get to open registration on about 15–20 October. We have added an option to the registration program that a member can renew his/her membership at the same time as registering.

The budget has \$300 allocated for drink tickets and conference bags. We really don't need bags and could replace them with folders.

General discussion regarding budget items, such as conference bags versus folders, how to compensate volunteers, and adding a 5% overhead to the charge for field trips.

### **Scientific Program Report (Doug Forsell)**

We will have four Special Paper Sessions, which we think will all be full. Zack Perry and Dan Roby will be giving plenary lectures.

### **Board Retreat (Pat Jodice and Pat Baird)**

John Glaza will be giving the board training on either 19 or 24 February, focusing on board responsibilities and roles. His charge is \$1,500.

### **Selection of 2014 and 2015 Meeting Locations**

Discussion about holding the 2014 Annual Meeting in Alaska (Adrian Gall), and the 2015 meeting in Monterey (Scott Schaffer). The location in Alaska was not finalized.

### **PSG LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (Pat Jodice)**

The Awards Committee suggested that we offer a Lifetime Achievement Award to Malcolm Coulter at our 2013 meeting in Portland. Since Malcolm's health is poor, several members urged that he be notified of the award immediately, and that arrangements be made for him to “attend” the presentation remotely from his home.

There was no nomination for a Special Achievement Award in 2013.

### **WSU FUNDING PROPOSAL (Pat Jodice)**

A detailed proposal from the World Seabird Union was received by EXCO, to receive \$17,000 from PSG for database expenses (the money being considered part of the profits from the World Seabird Conference). The proposal comes

in three parts, the largest of which is to link seabird databases.

General discussion about requiring a time frame for the projects.

### **MOTIONS**

**Financial audit:** EXCO approved extension of the Financial Committee until the February meeting, or until the work of the committee is completed.

**Automation of membership records:** EXCO approved spending up to \$1500 per year on an automated membership renewal and data storage system. Lindsay Young will identify and implement the system.

**Bylaws amendment on membership period:** EXCO approved a bylaws amendment to revise the annual membership period, bringing it into alignment with our fiscal year (1 Oct–30 Sep). We would make an effort to notify members a month in advance, so that they can renew on time.

[*Editor's note:* EXCO rescinded this proposed amendment in February 2013, because it would have conflicted with the new automated membership system. Therefore PSG memberships will continue to run from 1 Jan to 31 Dec.]

**Annual Meeting budget:** EXCO approved the budget for the 2013 meeting in Portland, as presented by the LOCO. Any additional expenses would have to be approved by the chair.

**Board retreat:** EXCO approved expenditure of up to \$2000 for an EXCO training session on board duties and responsibilities. Pat Baird will poll prospective attendees regarding the preferred date (whether before or after the Portland meeting), so as to maximize attendance by EXCO.

**2014 meeting venue:** EXCO voted hold the PSG 2014 meeting in Alaska. The Alaska LOCO will decide on a venue in Juneau or some other location.

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** EXCO approved Malcolm Coulter for PSG's Lifetime Achievement Award, to be presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

**WSU Funding Proposal:** EXCO approved the proposal submitted by WSU to receive \$17,000 for database development, contingent upon the proposers accepting a completion date of 31 December 2014.

# REGIONAL REPORT FOR 2012

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This bit of Regional Report was left out of the previous issue by mistake.

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## **NMFS AND USFWS ENHANCE COOPERATION TO PROTECT SEABIRDS**

On 10 January 2001, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds." One of the requirements of EO 13186 addresses each federal agency whose actions have, or are likely to have, a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations. Each such agency is directed to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which shall promote the

conservation of migratory bird populations (EO 13186, Section 3[a]). On 17 July 2012, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and USFWS finalized this MOU to conserve migratory bird populations; the MOU went into effect on the date it was signed.

This MOU encompasses all relevant NMFS activities related to seabirds. It identifies specific areas of collaboration and cooperation with USFWS, including seabird bycatch reduction, information sharing and coordination, international policy and diplomacy, and habitat conservation. The MOU also provides for strengthening migratory bird conservation—it identifies strate-

gies that promote conservation and that reduce adverse impacts on migratory birds, through enhanced collaboration between NMFS and USFWS. In addition, the MOU identifies specific activities where cooperation between NMFS and USFWS will contribute to the conservation of migratory birds and their habitat. These activities are intended to complement and support existing conservation efforts, and to facilitate new collaborative efforts on behalf of migratory birds.

The complete text of the MOU is available at [http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/mou/eo13186\\_nmfs\\_fws\\_mou2012.pdf](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seabirds/mou/eo13186_nmfs_fws_mou2012.pdf)



# PUBLICATIONS OF THE PACIFIC SEABIRD GROUP

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The Pacific Seabird Group publishes symposia and other works. **PSG Symposia** are occasionally held at Annual Meetings; those which have been published are listed below. **Technical Reports** prepared by PSG working groups also are listed. *To order one of these PSG publications, please see instructions after each item.*

**Abstracts** of papers and posters given at PSG meetings are published annually. Abstracts for meetings of 1974 through 1993 appeared in the *PSG Bulletin* (Volumes 2–20); for meetings of 1994 through 2003, in *Pacific Seabirds* (Volumes 21–30); and for meetings of 1997 and later, at [www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org)

PSG publishes the journals *Pacific Seabirds* ([www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org)) and *Marine Ornithology* ([www.marineornithology.org](http://www.marineornithology.org)). Current and past issues of both journals are available online or by subscription. Back issues may be obtained online; those of *Pacific Seabirds* also are available from the PSG Treasurer (order form on last page).

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## SYMPOsia

**SHOREBIRDS IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS.** Frank A. Pitelka (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Asilomar, California, January 1977. Published June 1979 in *Studies in Avian Biology*, Number 2. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

**TROPICAL SEABIRD BIOLOGY.** Ralph W. Schreiber (Editor). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Honolulu, Hawaii, December 1982. Published February 1984 in *Studies in Avian Biology*, Number 8. *Available free of charge at* <http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora/Condor/cooper/sab.php>

**MARINE BIRDS: THEIR FEEDING ECOLOGY AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES RELATIONSHIPS.** David N. Nettleship, Gerald A. Sanger, and Paul F. Springer (Editors). Proceedings of an International Symposium of the Pacific Seabird Group, Seattle, Washington, January 1982. Published 1984 as Canadian Wildlife Service, Special Publication. *Out of print; available free of charge at* [www.pacificseabirdgroup.org](http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org)

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## TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

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